



## FROM THE BRIDGE

Greetings,

One of the busiest few months that

I can recall in my more than half a century in the Navy League has come and gone. We were up to our ears in events that kept members of this board jumping. Awards presentations at JROTC units around the Baltimore Metropolitan area, calls for assistance from some of the organizations we sponsor and support, even an appeal for assistance from a sister council down south. You'll read more about them in the pages that follow.

But if we were busy, the Navy was a lot busier: Not only in dealing with the looming presence of China in the Pacific and the ongoing mess in the Middle East. But especially in the Persian Gulf where the theocrats in Iran have been engaged in virtually non-stop sabre rattling and the United States has been wont to respond in kind. A series of still mysterious attacks on merchant ships in the Gulf led the Navy to deploy some serious firepower to that unhappy part of the world. On station are USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72), which leads Carrier Strike Group 12 and carries Air Wing 7, and USS Kearsarge (LHA-3) and her task group, home to the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit. But though we seem to be ready for whatever may develop in the future, there's a problem.

A recent conducted by the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessment concludes that the Navy's current and planned maritime logistical force "is inadequate" to support the new National Defense Strategy and

major military operations against China or Russia, and that failure to correct that deficiency "could cause the United States to lose a war." In a speech give shortly thereafter Navy Secretary Richard V. Spencer praised the study and declared "We really have to get after it." As reported in Seapower, the Navy League magazine, the CSBA analysis explains in detail the shortfalls in the size of the Navy logistical support fleet of oilers, supply and repair ships that would be necessary to support and sustain combat formations in a conflict in the western Pacific, and the even greater deficiencies in the Military Sealift Command's and Maritime Administration's fleets that are approaching or already past a normal service life. Secretary Spencer also promised that we'd be hearing from both him and the new chief of naval operations "talking about the battle. And," he added, "It's not steaming to the battle. Our first battle is getting off the pier. And we have to start addressing this in earnest."

As we all know it's a dangerous world out there. And it's up to us, as well as to the men and women we support, to remain well informed about the challenges we face and to insist, in interaction with our elected and appointed officials, to face those challenges with courage and resolve.

God Bless the United States of America. ⚓

*Alan Walden  
Council President and Life Member*

## Youthful Excellence

### Medals

The end of the school year brings with it events in which the Baltimore Council-NLUS (and its brethren across the country) are heavily involved. The recognition of cadets chosen as the most outstanding in JROTC program is a key element of our mission.

First came 26 April at Woodlawn High School in Baltimore County where the Navy JROTC cadet selected as the best in her unit was Cadet LT Precious Durojaiye. Not only for her performance within the military science program but also because of her overall academic excellence. The commanding officer and senior instructor at Woodlawn



Durojaiye and Walden



Johnson, Walden, Lowery and Singleton

is CWO-3 Corey Lester, USN-ret. Ms. Durojaiye received, for her efforts, the coveted Theodore Roosevelt Youth medal. The presentation was made by Council President Alan Walden and Eugene Nuth, chair of the Youth Committee.

On 10 May, the action moved to Milford Mills Academy H.S., also in Baltimore County. There, in the company of family and friends, we honored two cadets who were judged to be most worthy from among a highly polished and professional Marine Corps JROTC unit. Chosen as Outstanding Cadet of the Year was 2nd Lieutenant Dante Lowery whose performance, both militarily and academically, raised him to penultimate status and earned him a special citation of excellence. The Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medal, the highest award that can be bestowed by the Navy League, was presented to Cadet Staff Sgt. Antonio Johnson who had proven himself, ever since joining the unit, to be someone special. Again, the awards were presented by Council President Walden with a justifiably

# Top Coastie

## EPOQ

It was Council Senior Vice President Joe Nattans' turn to do the honors at the Curtis Bay headquarters of United States Coast Guard Sector Maryland-National Capital Region. There he presented a special Citation for Excellence to FN Alexander Gonzalez, selected from among his peers, all of whom provide meritorious service to their service and the nation, as Enlisted Person of the Quarter. In addition to the certificate, the honoree received a check from the Council and its thanks for all he has done, both while on duty and in extracurricular volunteer work in the community. SMNCR is but one of a number of commands local at the Coast Guard Yard in Baltimore actively supported by the Baltimore Council. They call, we go. ⚓



Nattans and Gonzalez

### Medals

Continued from page 1



Nuth and Oluwafemi

as Outstanding Cadet of the Year at Mervo. Cadet Ware is, among his other accomplishments, a member of the Baltimore City JROTC Brigade Staff and a drill instructor for younger cadets. Selected to receive the Theodore Roosevelt Medal was Cadet Lieutenant Junior Grade Ayooluwakiitan Oluwafemi, weapons officer of the unit and commander of its drill team. He

proud Major Alan Singleton, USMC-ret, the senior military science instructor, looking on. The Milford Mill MCJROTC Color Guard was also invited to present the colors at the Baltimore Council Annual Meeting and Banquet on 4 December.



Mervo Cadets-honorees in dress blues

Four days later we were at Mergenthaler Vocational and Technical High School in Baltimore City, home to a Navy JROTC program directed by CAPT Martin Allard, USN-ret. In a full dress event held in the auditorium Cadet Lieutenant Share Ware was awarded a certificate of excellence

also maintains a creditable 3.6 Grade Point Average overall. The awards at Mervo were presented by Youth Committee chair Gene Nuth.

Our heartiest congratulations to all of them and to their peers; to whom this council remains deeply committed. ⚓

# A Wider Net

## The Kings Bay Connection



COB, Koznetzni, Phegley, Colville, CO

Among the units, installations and vessels sponsored by the Baltimore Council is USS Maryland (SSBN-738), an Ohio Class ballistic missile submarine whose home port is Kings Bay, Georgia, the East Coast base of our "boomer" fleet. Members of her two crews, Blue and Gold, often visit Baltimore where they engage in a variety of local activities. So, when asked by Cheryl Aston, a National Director of the Navy League and Vice President of the Camden-Kings Bay Council if we'd be willing to participate in one of its special events, our response was quick and affirmative.

Though unable to attend in person an Awards Ceremony and Banquet on 16 May we were there in spirit to honor two crewmembers, ETV1(SS) Christopher Phegley (Blue) and MMA1(SS) John Coleman (Gold), chosen as Sailors of the Year. Both received special Awards of Merit from the Baltimore Council.

It was, by all accounts, a well-attended and festive occasion with VADM Albert Konetzni, USN-ret. as the guest speaker. Admiral Konetzni was commander of all U. S. submarine forces in the Pacific from 1998 through 2001. The Master of Ceremony was Sam Colville, President of the Camden-Kings Bay Council. ⚓



CO, Koznetzni, Colville, Coleman, COB

## They Also Serve

# Honoring the Merchant Mariners



N/S Savannah



S.S. John W. Brown



Orsega, Walden, Giberson

Despite the threat of scattered thunderstorms, (it seems to happen every year) a larger than ever crowd gathered at Pier 13 in Canton on 19 May for the celebration of National Maritime Day on board N/S Savannah, the world's only nuclear powered freighter/passenger vessel, now berthed in Baltimore as a floating museum. And she was not alone. The S.S. John W. Brown, one of only two World War II vintage Liberty Ships still afloat and operational was on the opposite site of the pier. And Pride of Baltimore II, a replica of an early 19th Century Baltimore Clipper and Maryland's sailing Good Will Ambassador, was at the foot of the landing.

The focus this year was on the little known but vital role played by the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service.



The Quarterdeck Crowd

The keynote address was delivered by RDML Susan Orsega, Director of Commissioned Corps Headquarters. Orsega is no stranger to the Baltimore area. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing at Towson University. She had quite a story to tell of her job directing virtually all functions for the

6,500 members of the CC-USPHS. RADM Scott Giberson, Assistant Surgeon General of the United States, was there, too.

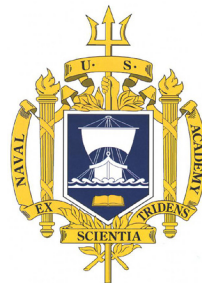
Time was also taken to remember Janet Caslow, one of the true shakers and movers of events in the Port of Baltimore and a former officer of this council. Janet was a truly remarkable person and her recent death was a blow to all of us.

National Maritime Day is a holiday created to recognize the maritime industry and to commemorate the date, 200 years ago, when the American steamship Savannah set sail from Savannah, Georgia on the first ever transoceanic voyage under steam power. The holiday was created by the United States Congress on May 20, 1933. ⚓

## The Middies

# Best of the Best

by Alan Walden



On Thursday, 23 May I had the high honor to represent both the Baltimore Council of the Navy League and the Military Order of Foreign Wars at the annual Prizes and Awards ceremony held at the United States Naval Academy. There, in a gala event attended by classmates, families, and friends, I presented the MOFW Prize to Midshipmen 1st Class Megan Hansen.

It was an extraordinary moment for this remarkably bright and highly motivated young woman. Hansen, who has since received her commission as an ensign in the United State Navy, received the award as the midshipmen "who, among those who have completed a major

administered by the Mathematics Department, stands highest for the entire course of instruction at the Naval Academy."

Nor was that her only accomplishment. Upon graduation the newly commissioned Ensign Hansen was off across the Atlantic by virtue of her having been awarded the Turner Scholarship at Oxford University in Great Britain.



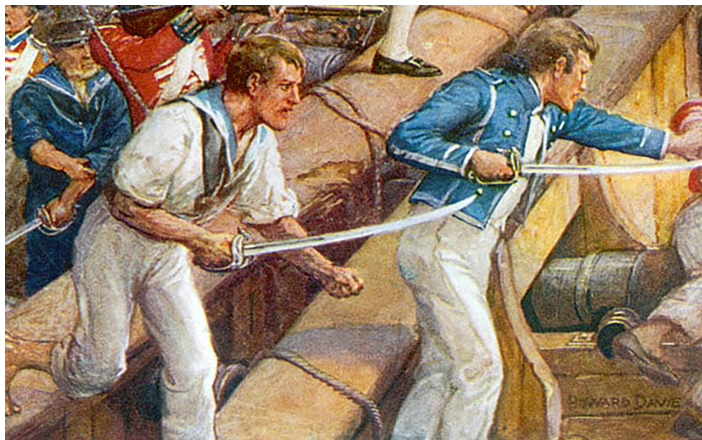
Hansen and Walden

The official party at the ceremony was led by VADM Walter E. "Ted Carter, Superintendent of the Academy who presented the opening and closing remarks. Others who took part in the presentations of awards included CAPT Robert B. Chadwick, Commandant of Midshipmen, Dr. Andrew T. Phillips, Academic Dean and Provost, and Mr. Chet Gladchuck, Director of Athletics. ⚓

# Nelson's Navy

## A Sailor's Lot

by *Guy Hawtin*



Jack Tars

The 18th Century sage Doctor Samuel Johnson was justly famous for biting wit. But while there's doubtless some truth in his observation that second marriages epitomize the triumph of hope over experience, it appears he was dead wrong about life in the Royal Navy.

Johnson despised the 18th Century navy. "Being in a ship," he wrote, "is being in a jail, with the chance of being drowned." Recent research,



ADM John Jervis, Earl St. Vincent

however, shows that, in this instance, Johnson's assessment was far from the mark. It turns out that, compared with the working man ashore, life for a Jack Tar in Horatio Nelson's Navy, while not without risks, was really quite jolly.

Not least, a sailor's diet was far superior to his counterparts on land. A seaman's weekly rations included three pounds of beef and two pounds of pork, as well as peas, lentils, oatmeal, butter and cheese – augmented by fresh fish when at sea, and fresh vegetables and newly

slaughtered livestock upon visiting port. On top of this, he was entitled to a gallon of beer a day as well as the highly prized daily ration of 109 proof rum or brandy – watered down as "grog" – to which lime or lemon juice was frequently added to prevent scurvy. Weevils were unavoidable in ship's biscuit especially on a long voyage. But the Victualing Board, responsible for naval food supplies, maintained quality by baking its

own biscuits, emblazoned with "the "Broad Arrow" and King George III's monogram. In short, at the turn of the 18th/19th-centuries, British sailors enjoyed a high-calorie, protein-packed diet (at least 5,000 calories a day) – far more nutritious than that enjoyed by most working-class landmen, who typically tasted meat, beer and cheese just once a week.

By and large the hands on the lower decks generally dined as well, if not better, than did their officers. Admiral John Jervis, Earl St. Vincent, for example, operated on the principle that as far as rations were concerned the men on the lower deck took priority. A tough, ruthless commander, "Old Jarvy" had a reputation for showing great concern for his men's welfare. His standing orders as commander of the Mediterranean Fleet during 1796-98, for instance, required captains slaughtering cattle aboard ship to reserve choicest cuts for the men. Officers were ordered to follow Jervis' example and take the head and tongue of the beast as their share. Similarly, in distributing lemons crucial to the prevention of scurvy, Jervis ruled that "no consideration is to be had to the officers in preference to the men but they are to be equally apportioned to the number of persons victualled, with a reserve for the sick."



The Padre, Father Guy Hawtin

Researcher Janet Macdonald, author of a book entitled *Feeding Nelson's Navy*, discovered that many captains were just as scrupulous and caring as Jervis. Packet boats from England brought fresh food to the Channel Fleet and some captains kept gardens ashore along their assigned cruising lanes to supply the crews with vegetables. Admiral Nelson, she says, had a particular faith in onions. Most captains shipped livestock of all kinds and the fodder required to keep them alive for fresh food into the reach of long journeys,

A drawback to this practice, Macdonald writes, was that the crew would frequently adopt them as pets. At least one pig was so popular with crewmembers she died onboard of obesity off the China coast. Poultry-keepers (traditionally dubbed 'Jemmy Ducks') had to be changed regularly to prevent them growing too fond of their charges.

Additional supplies of fresh food were provided by local coastal populations. Ironically perhaps, despite their nations' belligerent status with Britain, owners of both French and American bumboats regularly sold all manner of victuals to Royal Navy warships.

So, it seems, Jack Tar ate hearty, drank his fill and, when the occasion arose, fought like the very devil himself.

(NOTE: The Very Rev. Dean Guy Hawtin, British by birth and American by choice, is Rector of St. Stephen's Anglican Church in Lutherville, MD and is Chaplain of the Baltimore Council-NLUS.) 

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# Coming Up

- 7/4\*\*** Independence Day (1776)
  - 8/11** U.S. Coast Guard birthday (1790)
  - 8/14** VJ. Day (1945)
  - 8/31** Islamic New Year begins at sundown
  - 9/2\*\*** Labor Day
  - 9/11\*\*** Patriot Day
  - 9/14** Defenders Day-Star Spangled Banner Anniversary (1814)
  - 9/18** U.S. Air Force established ((1947)
  - 9/21\*\*** POW/MIA Recognition Day
  - 9/23** Autumnal Equinox
  - 9/29** Rosh Hashannah begins at sundown
- \*\* *Show The Colors*

## Editor's Notes:

Please keep in mind and mark on your calendars the date of our Annual Meeting and Banquet. It will take place on Wednesday, 4 December. Several locations are still being discussed and the final choice will be published in the fall issue of this publication.

As always your comments and observations regarding All Ahead Full are encouraged and welcomed. You may contact the editor at 443-708-5050 or by Email at [awmedia@aol.com](mailto:awmedia@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