



ALL AHEAD FULL

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

FALL 2020



FROM THE BRIDGE

Greetings Shipmates and Friends,

I hope this message finds you well during these most unusual times. As we attempt to deal with such challenging obstacles as pandemic, civil unrest, catastrophic fires in California, massive storms in the Gulf Coast, and general concern for the future of our country, it is important that we stay on course.

Our multi-fold mission remains as ever it has been: Education regarding the history and purpose of the Sea Services, recognition of NJROTC and MCJROTC outstanding students, support of our sponsored Sea Cadets units, strong involvement with Navy and Coast Guard ships and units, and community activity whenever and wherever required

But we cannot do what is required without the support of our membership. It is your interest and commitment that helps us keep a firm hand on the tiller; that strengthens our resolve; especially in times like these. It is your commitment that allows us to successfully navigate the storms in our path and cut through the waves of difficulty, doubt, and dissension that sometimes seem as though they may engulf us and those who serve.

Since our last publication, we have lost two of our most accomplished members. Further tribute to these outstanding leaders appear on pages of this newsletter. We are grateful for their contribution not only to our Baltimore Council, but also to the U.S. Navy and

our Nation. "Rest in Peace with our Eternal Father!"

We are also sorry to lose the services of Deputy Chief United States Marshal Jack Leo, our council vice president, and wish him good fortune in his new position as Deputy Director of the New Jersey Lottery.

On a positive note, the Virtual Fleet Week in Baltimore was, considering the circumstances, a modest success. Those who took the time to connect to the various events at the Inner Harbor, Fort McHenry, on board the historic ships, and in the air, were treated to as fine a presentation as Internet technology could provide. Our congratulations go to all who were involved.

And we are moving forward with the the USS Zumwalt Trust Fund of which this council is the sole custodian. The funds have been well invested and will be available to the ship and her crew as required.

Yes, the challenges we faced are great. But so is our nation. And we are confident that, with the passage of time, we shall emerge from our current difficulties with renewed energy and resolve. In the meantime, as always, in the pursuit of our mission of support to the sea services, we go "All Ahead Full."

God bless you and the United States of America. ⚓

*Joe
Brigadier General Arthur J. Nattans
Council President & Life Member*

In Memoriam

We Shall Miss Them



CAPT Kathy Bruyere

by Alan Walden

It is with the deep sense of loss that we report the passing of some of the most distinguished alumni of the Baltimore Council. Most recently we were advised of the death of CAPT Kathleen Bruyere, USN-ret. who, with her late husband, CAPT Thomas Bruyere, also USN-ret. were among the stalwarts of the board of this council during the years they spent in Baltimore. Kathy, who was 76, died complications of cancer on Thursday, 3 September, at Paradise Valley Hospital in San Diego.

An "Army Brat," Kathy was a lifelong trailblazer who won the right for women to serve aboard ships and receive equal opportunities for training and promotion in the Navy. After retirement, she selflessly continued to step up and serve veterans and the community through her volunteer work at the Miramar National Cemetery, the George G. Glenner's Alzheimer's Center, and numerous board positions at the Parkinson's Association of San Diego, and the local chapter of the Military Officer's Association of America.

After graduation from Chestnut Hill College in 1966, she enlisted in the Navy and attended Officer Candidate School. While assigned to Navy Recruiting District New York, she met Naval officer Captain Thomas Bruyere and they were married in 1988. Tom was a near legendary fighter pilot who, at the time of his retirement, held the record for the most nighttime "traps," carrier landings ever.

In Memoriam
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Kathy and Tom at the White House



In January 1976, Time magazine changed an annual tradition. Instead of selecting a "Person of the Year" for its cover, it featured 12 "Women of the Year." The women chosen included Billie Jean King, Carla Hills, Betty Ford and Kathy Bruyere, then a 31-year-old Lieutenant Commander and the first woman to be Flag Executive Officer and Aide de Camp to a Navy Admiral. As head of Rear Admiral Allen Hill's staff, she was the liaison between his headquarters and nine Pacific training commands. In the Time article, unpopular amongst Navy leadership, when interviewed she predicted, "there will be a seagoing woman Admiral in the U.S. Navy in the not too distant future." Though she herself would never become an Admiral, Captain Bruyere would spend much of her career paving the way for other women to do so. In 1977, she and five other Navy women filed a class-action suit against the Secretary of Defense and Secretary of the Navy because the law prohibited women to serve on combatant ships and aircraft. They argued that their chance for promotions and opportunities were limited because of the discriminatory law and unfair practice. In a recent interview published in March for San Diego Veterans Magazine and Homeland Magazine, Captain Bruyere said one of her fellow plaintiffs, a pilot, was told, "you can deliver supplies to the ship, just don't land on the ship." The following year a federal judge declared the policy unconstitutional to prohibit Navy women from serving aboard combatant ships at sea and on aircraft. Victory came too late for Captain Bruyere to consider life aboard a ship. She stayed with personnel and recruiting



specialties at Navy installations around the country. In 1983, after being appointed head of Navy Personnel Support Activity in Philadelphia, she told The Philadelphia Inquirer she planned to bring the Navy's "personnel management system into the computer age." In 1987, as Special Assistant to the Chief of Naval Operations for women's policy, Captain Bruyere helped conduct an examination of the status of Navy women which looked at career opportunities as well as complaints of sexism. The study opened up 9,000 sea-duty and command jobs for women on 24 combatant ships. In 1991, Captain Bruyere was selected and assigned as Commanding Officer for the Navy Recruit Training Command at Orlando, Florida. At the time, it was the Navy's only boot camp that included women.

She retired from the Navy in 1994 after 28 years of exemplary selfless service. After retirement she and husband Tom made Baltimore and eventually San Diego home. They both enjoyed volunteering, entertaining, and visiting friends and family.

A funeral mass will be held for Kathy on Friday, 9 October, at 11:00am, at St Rose of Lima Catholic Church; 293 H St, Chula Vista, CA 91910. Following the mass she will be buried with full military honors next to Tom at Miramar National Cemetery.

We also mourn the loss of RADM F. Neale Smith, USN-ret. who, like Kathy and Tom, was a distinguished member of the board of this Council. Neale died on 15 August. He was 89.

As a 9th generation Marylander and a 5th generation Baltimorean Neale was the last surviving member of his generation in this historic Maryland family whose ancestry traces directly to his namesake, Captain James Neale (1615 – 1684), an early Maryland Colony Council Member and Deputy Governor.

Neale's storied career in the Navy began during the Korean War and throughout 37 subsequent years of active duty and Naval Reserve service led to flag rank and appointment by then Secretary of the Navy James Webb to serve as Commander, Naval Reserve Force, and Chief of Naval Reserve (1987 – 1989). Neale was the first Surface Warfare Officer (SWO), and the only Selected Reserve officer in the history of the United States Navy, to serve as Chief of the Naval Reserve.

Neale's sense of service turned to his growing family in 1956 when he left active duty, affiliated with the Naval Reserve, and pursued a career in marketing and sales with RADM Neale Smith (then) Esso Standard Oil company that later became Exxon. As corporate and Navy promotions amassed through the years it led to his definitive corporate service on the headquarters staff of Exxon Pipeline in Houston, Texas until 1984, when he was recalled to active military service to serve as the Deputy Director of the United States Naval Reserve.



RADM Neale Smith

Following full retirement to Texas, Neale continued to advocate for uniformed service members and their families leveraging his network of retired Navy flag officers. Ever the Renaissance Man, Neale was an avid reader and collector of American history, a very active member of the Maryland and National Genealogical Societies, the Baltimore Council of the Navy League, and equally adept with a circular saw or smoothing plane as he executed countless beautiful renovations on our family homes. †

2020 Annual Meeting

A Virtual Affair

Due the concerns surrounding the COVID-19 Virus the Board of Directors of the Baltimore Council has regretfully decided that it would be unreasonable to plan the traditional festive dinner in conjunction with the Annual Meeting.

But all is not lost. Since the council bylaws require that such a meeting be held each year on the first Wednesday of December we have, thanks to council treasurer Chris Costello, scheduled a "Virtual Annual Meeting" via ZOOM at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, 2 December 2020. All members will be able to attend remotely from any accessible

device, or by joining those board members who will be gathering at St. Stephen's Anglican Church, located at 11856 Mays Chapel Rd, Timonium, MD 21093.

A light buffet and limited open bar will be available. Members should feel free to BYO.

The information needed to access the meeting is included below:

To Join the Zoom Meeting either click on the following link or copy into your browser.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73795464328?pwd=ZHU2R2s3NVhIRmY3N2k0N2Vldm1pdz09>

To assist members the Navy league will send an e-mail with this information to all members for whom there are email addresses available.

If you do not receive a link via e-mail and wish to receive one, you may contact Chris Costello at cb.costello@comcast.net or call/text 410-746-3452

ZOOM Meeting ID: 737 9546 4328; Passcode: 1SX4BN ⚓

Adversity Overcome

With the Sea Cadets



Even as the uncertainty of Covid-19 continues to weigh heavily upon us Fort McHenry Division and Training Ship Constellation still have the Sea and League Cadet drive and experience to meet the challenges they face.

Both units completed monthly drills online in late spring and early summer with the assistance of the Internet ZOOM platform which allows officers to interact with cadets by video and provide drill assignments and perform advancement exams. In order to prevent any cadet from falling behind physical readiness tests were completed at local athletic fields with social distancing guidelines strictly enforced.

NSSC Headquarters created a Virtual Training Platform in early spring that allowed cadets to enroll in traditional courses such as Master at Arms and aviation training while introducing interactive programs including Minecraft



training and Marine Science. Our Sea and League cadets were very active during the summer training period which included Naval History and Emergency Management courses. Instructors, meanwhile, serve as Division Officers in Phase 1 Only Recruit Training and in Phase 2 Regional Training in Western Maryland.

Active TSC and MCH cadets performed community service in August at Fresh Fruit Farms in Freeland, MD. FFF is a non-profit Christian Ministry dedicated to providing nutritious produce to those in the mid-Atlantic region suffering from hunger. Cadets, parents, and staff harvested fruit and vegetables to distribution in the local area and clearly enjoyed the experience.

In August the Fort McHenry Division welcomed seven new recruits while Training



Ship Constellation added two. All seem eager and ready to learn.

September drill included the annual awards ceremony where we honored cadets who completed summer training and those who were promoted in the previous months. Steven Emessiene was promoted to Chief Petty Officer and current serves as the Unit Command Chief. Petty Officer First Class Julia Knisley is our Leading PO and the first female in over a decade to lead the unit.

Our units continue to be a successful and attractive option to cadets and parents and, with the advent of fall, we shall continue to drill safely in period and meeting our continuing challenges head on. We will not now or ever allow Covid or any similar misfortune to deter us from our mission – to train and develop tomorrow's leaders. ⚓

Looking Aft

Okinawa - A 75 Year Perspective



The Bombardment

by Chris Costello

Seventy-five years ago, Allied Naval Forces* and U.S. Army launched a combined attack on the Japanese Island of Okinawa. This prolonged engagement began on April 1st, 1945,** the same day that the island of Iwo Jima was secured. It ended three bloody months later, on July 2nd, after the Japanese forces on the island were almost wiped out. The operation involved more than 1,300 ships, 350,000 naval personnel, and 180,000 troops of the U.S. 10th Army and the 6th Marine Division. It was the largest amphibious assault force in the history of warfare. It was also the bloodiest and most costly engagement in the Pacific.

Allied casualties were reported as 20,195 deaths and 55,168 wounded. The Japanese lost an estimated 110,000 military and 150,000 civilian dead. The allies lost 36 ships (including landing craft). Another 368 were damaged.

And 768 aircraft were lost.

Okinawa has long been of interest to me, in part because I was born

during the battle. I have never been to Okinawa nor do I deserve any credit for the victory. But throughout my life I have been

inspired by those who fought in this and other WWII battles.

When the 75th anniversary of Okinawa arose, I thought it would be an appropriate for All Ahead Full to pay tribute to the courageous people who sacrificed and suffered so much to help make the world a better place.

I knew two people engaged in the battle for Okinawa. One was my uncle, Garth Hamilton, a decorated U. S. Army officer who commanded a platoon there. The other was William Herman who served on the USS Pringle (DD-477). Like most veterans who have endured combat they were not given to casual conversation about it; which I took to be an indication of how daunting their experience must have been.

Bill Herman worked at BGE after the war. His daughter and my wife were high school classmates. He and his wife lived in our area



The Landing



The Assault

until moving to Charlestown prior to his death. Bill and I had an opportunity to speak about his experience at Okinawa. He had been a gunner's mate in a forward 5" artillery mount until his ship was destroyed during a kamikaze attack. Bill was severely wounded and forced to abandon ship.

Before he died, he gave me a copy of an excellent book, which I have read twice: *Blood on the Sea, American Destroyers Lost in World War II*, by Robert Sinclair Parkin. It recounts the fate of every destroyer that was lost during WWII, including his ship, the USS Pringle. What makes the book exceptional is the detailed explanation of the heroic actions of the crew and the outstanding leadership of those who went above and beyond to save their shipmates.

The significance of battles like Okinawa are overlooked by many people today because they seem like distant, irrelevant history. But there are legions of others, including many Japanese, who believe these events are still relevant and wish to maintain the memory of those who fought, suffered, and died.

Okinawa may seem like a blip on the WW II Timeline, but during the spring and summer of 1945 it was the biggest event of the war and the culmination of the fighting in the Pacific.

2020 is also the 75th anniversary of the use of atomic bombs which obliterated the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Some still insist that these weapons need not have been used and that the war with Japan could have

been concluded in a less awful manner. But, while everyone is entitled to their opinion it is important to recall that the allied leaders had made it clear they would not accept anything short of "unconditional surrender." The Japanese navy was defeated, conventional bombing of Japanese cities was causing a horrific death toll, Allied victory was inevitable, yet the enemy opposition was intensifying.

Survivors of Okinawa could see that the Japanese Imperial government was not going to accede to the Allied terms prior to the atomic bombings. To these latter day Samurai warriors who still embraced the ancient code of Bushido, surrender was not an option. And those who think the Japanese would have succumbed without the threat of annihilation are either unaware or choose to ignore the savagery that was Okinawa. ⚔

(Note: Chris Costello served in the US Navy as a Designated Naval Aviator from 1968 to 1973)

** Allied Naval Forces, commanded by U.S. Navy included: Australia, Canada, Great Britain, New Zealand, U.S. Navy and U.S. Marines*

*** The battle for Okinawa began on March 26th with the invasion of the outlying islands.*

**** Books about the Battle of Okinawa:
Bloody Okinawa: The Last Great Battle of World War II
by Joseph Wheelan*

Twilight of the Gods: War in the Western Pacific, 1944-1945 (Vol. 3) (Pacific War Trilogy) by Ian W. Toll



The Toll

Coming Up

- 10/12 Columbus Day
- 11/1 Begin Standard Time. (Clocks set back one hour)
- 11/3 Election Day – VOTE!*
- 11/11 Veterans Day*
- 11/26 Thanksgiving Day*
- 12/2 Annual Meeting – in person or via ZOOM
- 12/7 Pearl Harbor Day (1941)*
- 12/10 Hanukkah begins
- 12/21 Winter Solstice (First day of winter)
- 12/25 Christmas Day
- 12/31 New Year's Eve

(* Show the colors

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



Navy League-Baltimore Council
P.O. Box 50307
Hampden Roland Park
Baltimore, MD 21211-9998