



ALL AHEAD FULL

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

SPRING 2020



FROM THE BRIDGE

As I take the helm of this council, I am very grateful for your confidence in me to continue the great leadership of my predecessor, COL (MD) Alan Walden. Over the past 30 years Alan has been the “Energizer Bunny” for the Baltimore Council in every undertaking. We are all beneficiaries of and grateful for his dedication to the Sea Services, the NLUS, and the Baltimore Council. And even though no longer an officer of the council, Alan remains on the board as a member of the Youth Committee, executive editor of this newsletter, media coordinator, and our spokesman at events large and small.

Now, to the business at hand. As you all know we’re in a new war; in essence World War III. But this time all the nations on the planet are in it together. The enemy, implacable and potentially deadly, is invisible to the naked eye: A biological monster that threatens everyone. The governments of the world, national, state, and local, are doing everything in their power to meet this new challenge. And it’s up to all of us to help. Covid-19, the Corona Virus, strikes without warning; no one is safe. But precautions can be and are being taken to defeat it. What we can and must do is to strengthen our resolve, endure with courage and commitment the difficulties we now encounter, and see it through. You know the drill. If at all possible stay home, keep your distance from others, wash your hands thoroughly and often, sanitize your surroundings, pay close attention to the counsel of true experts while ignoring the pretenders, rumor mongers, and prophets of doom and gloom. Hang in there. We’ll win this. We must.

Meanwhile, on our Council’s horizons are the important fiduciary duties as custodians and administrators of the USS Zumwalt (DDG-1000) Legacy Trust. Being advised by our profession JAG, Leo J. Ottey, Jr and the competency of the assigned trust Board members, I know their dedicated service will provide well for the benefit of the Officers and crew of the USS Zumwalt.

We will continue our recognition of the “Sailor of the Quarter” as determined by the Navy Reserve Center (NOSC) at Fort McHenry and the USCG Units at Curtis Bay, MD. On our course are the JROTC units in our local high schools and our council sponsored Sea Cadet Program. Welcoming visiting ships and crews, both our own and those from around the globe is a continuing and gratifying mission for us in helping maintain international friendships.

Our active outreach programs, not only with sea services and organizations but also with civic, social and professional services and organizations in the Mid- Atlantic area are wide and varied: Sponsorship at the commissioning of and assistance to USS Sterett (DDG-104) and, in the past, USS Oriole (MHC-55 and USS Raven (MHC-61), shared support and sponsorship of USS Maryland (SSBN-738) with our neighbor Annapolis Council, recognition of outstanding individuals of the U.S. Naval Academy and other colleges and universities in the area are our charge and pleasure. We also participate in the USCG placement of the Francis Scott Key buoy in Baltimore Harbor

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In Memoriam

USCGC Alexander Hamilton and “The Chaplains”



WHEC-37 USCGC Taney

A solemn ceremony was held on board USCGC Taney (WHEC 37) at the Inner Harbor on 29 January to remember the sinking of her sister ship, USCGC Alexander Hamilton (WPG/WHEC 34), and the loss of 26 of her crew that date in 1942. The Hamilton fell victim to a German U-Boat’s torpedo while escorting a convoy bound for Iceland through the treacherous waters of the North Atlantic. The families of those who were lost were represented by Mr. Dave Downey who spoke of the event and its aftermath, and Ms. Beth Crumley, Assistant Historian of the Coast Guard added valuable background on the ship and the fleet of Secretary/Treasury Class cutters that, ship for ship, were the most successful anti-submarine vessels at sea during World War II.

Tribute was also paid to “The Four Chaplains,” a Catholic priest, a rabbi, and two Protestant clergymen whose gallantry and sacrifice was unequalled when they stood, arm in arm, as the troopship SS Dorchester sank just south of Greenland one year later. They helped mightily to maintain order amid

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WPG-34 USCGC Alexander Hamilton



The Four Chaplains



Downey, Kennedy, Crumley and Cora

From the Bridge
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each June. And we are involved in many major civic events and celebrations including the “Star Spangled Spectacular” at Fort McHenry in September, the Pearl Harbor Memorial Service on board the USCGC Taney in December, and Fleet Week in Baltimore.

The final event each year is our Annual Banquet held on the first Wednesday of December. It is a celebration of our council and its accomplishments, goals and objectives, and a time to face, with renewed vigor, the challenges the challenges the lie ahead.

In closing, let me remind you that we need new members, and ask that you help us find them.

Best wishes to all, God Bless the United States of America – and all the people of Planet Earth.. ⚓

*Joe
BG Arthur J. Nattans (USA ret)
President and Life Member*

the chaos that ensued after the vessel was torpedoed. And, when the supply of life jackets was exhausted, gave up theirs to save others, and went down with the ship.

The invocation and benediction were offered by LCDR Michael

Kennedy, chaplain of Coast Guard Sector Maryland-National Capital District. Mr. Paul Cora, curator of the vessels under the care of Historic Ships in Baltimore, was host of the event. And Baltimore Council Past-President Alan Walden played his accustomed role as Master of Ceremony. ⚓

On The Front Lines Covid-19 at Sea

While all of us are struggling with the threat of the Corona Virus here are home and applauding the efforts being made to bring it under control let’s not forget the men and women of the Armed Forces; the hundreds of thousands of men and women whose burden of providing our first line of defense around the world has gotten much heavier. They, too, are at risk. The first cases of Covid-19 on board a U.S. Navy ship at sea were detected aboard USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71) where three crewmembers were quarantined in quarters before being evacuated ashore for further

treatment. Acting SecNav Thomas Modly also reported that all who had contact with them are likewise under quarantine. As of this writing almost a hundred cases have been diagnosed among Navy personnel and its civilian employees and contractors.

Those of the uniformed military services are out there for us. They cannot just stand down and wait for better days. They have jobs that must be done—for us. So as you worry and wonder about the safety of you and your friends and families, think of them and theirs as well. ⚓

Attention on Deck!

The Annual Inspection



Ft. McHenry Division / TS Constellation

Saturday, 8 February, was a very special day for the boys and girls, young men and women of the Fort McHenry Division-United States Navy Sea Cadet Corps and the Training Ship Constellation unit of the U.S. Navy League Cadet Corps as they underwent their annual inspection at the Navy Operational Support Center in Baltimore. LTJG Andrea Thomas had every reason to be proud of her cadets as they were examined and questioned by senior



Davis and Nattans

officers from the regional headquarters. They were all standing tall and more than equal to the occasion.

For Leading Petty Officer (PO3) Justin Davis of T/S Constellation it was a day of extraordinary meaning. He had been singled out by his instructors and other officers as worthy of special mention. And following brief introductory remarks from Past-President



LCDR Rolanda Franklin, Nattans, Davis, and Thomas

Alan Walden Petty Officer Thomas received an Award of Merit from Baltimore Council President Joe Nattans.

The Sea Cadets are both sponsored and actively supported by this council. Attention to the requirements of youth remains a key element of its mission. ⚓

Toward the Future

High Tech Weaponry

The admiral in charge of the Navy's surface warships said a littoral combat ship (LCS) soon will deploy with a laser weapon system on board.

Vice Adm. Rich Brown, commander of Naval Surface Forces, in a Jan. 6 media teleconference, embargoed until Jan. 13, said the weapon system will be installed in the Freedom-class USS Little Rock (LCS 9). Brown said the laser system would be installed in the ship midway during its deployment during a crew swap and planned maintenance availability.

The Little Rock, based in Naval Station Mayport, Florida, is expected to deploy sometime over the next year. The Navy was not ready to discuss the origin or type of laser weapon system to be installed.

The Navy already has installed a laser



weapon system on the amphibious transport dock ship USS Portland (LPD 27). Earlier, an experimental laser weapon system, the SEQ-3, was deployed

to the Persian Gulf in 2014 on board the USS Ponce, which since has been decommissioned. ⚓

Tall Ships and Warships

The Morgan, Mamie, and More



The Charles W. Morgan

By Alan Walden

What does a Navy Leaguer do when he has a few bright winter days to spare and feels the pull of history? He goes looking for ships. And for this Baltimore Council old timer that meant a drive up into maritime New England.

First stop: Mystic, Connecticut, one of the nation's truly great historic seaports. It was a pure delight to wander through the streets of the old town, to visit the ancient shops and homes, to chat with the artisans and historic interpreters. Most of all to climb aboard Mystic's elegant floating centerpiece and, for many decades, Mystic's principal attraction; the whaler Charles W. Morgan. It wasn't the first time I'd been there. But, in the dead of winter, with relatively few other visitors on site, it may have been the most memorable. The only sounds were the brisk wind ghosting through the rigging and the faint echo of our footsteps as we walked the deck, then lay below for a look at Spartan quarters of the crew and the tools that were used to render blubber into oil. It wasn't too difficult to imagine what life must have been like for the dozens of hardy New Englanders who often spent, as described by Richard Henry Dana, "Two Years Before the Mast." And when we returned topside and I took hold of



At Battleship Cove

the wheel I could almost feel the tug of the rudder and hear the call from the lookout high above: "He blows! Two points off the starboard quarter! He blows." The day ended with a drive to the opposite side of the inlet and to wander among the old homes of the long-gone captains and owners of the whaling fleet; many with "widows walks" mounted on the roof where the wives would wait and watch, often in vain, for the return of their seafaring adventurers.

The following day we headed north again,



At the helm

through Rhode Island, and on into southeastern Massachusetts where, in Fall River, under the loom of I-195 bridge lay the great gray warships of the mid-20th Century. We spent most of our time on the greatest of all; BB-59, the fast battleship USS Massachusetts; 680 feet stem to stern with a standard displacement of 45,000 tons and a main battery of nine 16" guns in three triple turrets: Two forward and one aft. "Big Mamie," as she's known, was the third of four South Dakota class battlewagons that saw action in World War II. Her sister ship, USS Alabama, BB-60, last of the class, is also still afloat as a museum ship in Mobile. We could feel the power of this grand vessel as we explored her wonders and gazed with awe at the great guns each of which could fire a one-ton explosive shell and hit within a few feet of a target twenty miles away. It took the better part of an hour to see what we could of the interior with its scores of artifacts and displays. We even had lunch on board in what was the crew mess, now a cafeteria for visitors. I suspect that someday we'll go back and see the rest.

Nor is "Mamie" the only major attraction at Battleship Cove. Moored nearby is SS-248, the Balao Class submarine USS Sealion, which conducted two war patrols in WWII. She, too, occupied some of our time - as did DD-850,



Kennedy, Sealion, and "Mamie"



MIA display on Kennedy

the Gearing Class destroyer USS Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr., named for the eldest son of the celebrated clan that gave us a President of the United States and two United States senators. Joe Kennedy was killed during the Second World War while, as you know, two of his brothers died at the hands of assassins years later.

By the time we drove all the way back home we were beat. But it was a good kind of exhaustion.

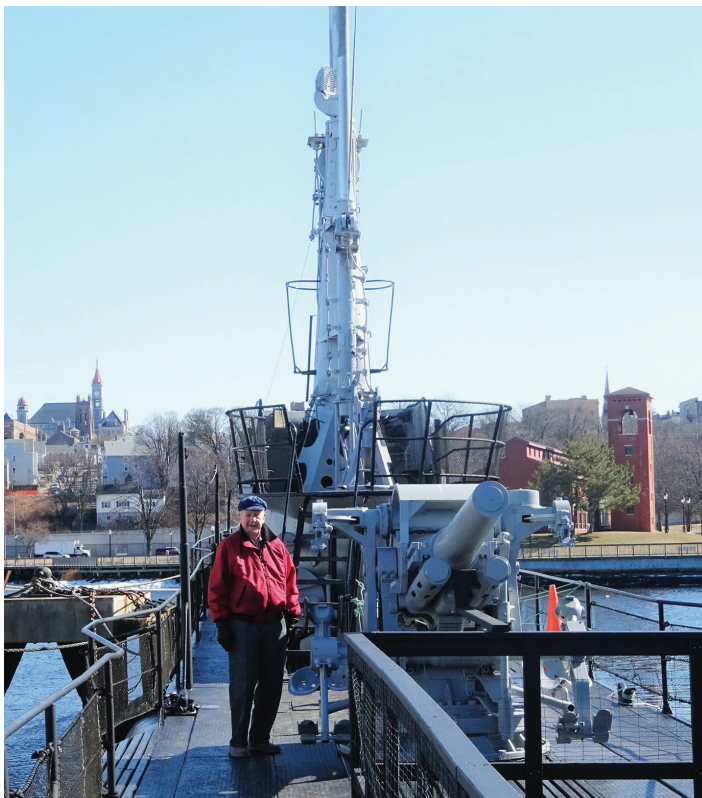
We had felt history come alive in those two coastal New England towns. And it was worth every minute.

While on the subject: USS Arizona and USS Oklahoma will sail again, both on and under the seas! Acting Secretary of the Navy Thomas Modly has announced that two new Virginia-class attack submarines will be named after the only two battleships that were lost in

Hawaii on that terrible day 79 years ago when a surprise attack plunged the United States into the maelstrom of WWII.

"It is my fondest wish," Modly said, "that the citizens of the great states of Arizona and Oklahoma will understand and celebrate our Navy's desire to memorialize the 1,177 heroes who perished in USS Arizona (BB-39) and the 429 more in USS Oklahoma (BB-37) in Pearl Harbor, on Dec. 7, 1941."

The few remaining survivors and the families of those who were lost were delighted by the announcement. But not without a caveat. Donald Stratteon, one of the last six crewmen to escape the burning hulk of his ship as she sank, spoke for all when he said, "I think it's a great thing to honor all the shipmates. But, he added, there is still only one USS Oklahoma and one USS Arizona." ⚓



On board Sealion



Under Mamie's aft 16" main battery



Virginia Class submarine

Coming Up

- 4/5** Palm Sunday
- 4/8** Passover begins – First Seder
- 4/12** Easter Sunday
- 5/10** Mother's Day
- 5/16** Armed Forces Day (Show the colors)
- 5/25** Memorial Day (Show the colors; half-staff until noon)
- 6/6** D-Day (1944) (Show the colors)
- 6/14** Flag Day (1777) (Show the colors)
- 6/20** Summer Solstice - first day of summer
- 6/21** Father's Day

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, 2 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.

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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