



ALL AHEAD FULL

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

SUMMER 2020



FROM THE BRIDGE

This may appear to be “off topic.” But I feel it needs to be said.

“These ARE the times that try men’s souls.” Worldwide, people are affected by the threat of the Corona virus (Covid19). Our successful national economy and health limits have been critically challenged to sustainable ends. And as much as pessimists embrace the “doom and gloom” scenario, optimists are encouraged by such things as scientific and medical research and progress, information sharing, and the willingness of most of us to do what needs to be done to overcome the ravage of the pandemic.

Here in the United States special attention has been focused, in addition to civilian concerns, especially in areas of high population density, on military personnel, installations, ships at sea, training units and military hospitals. Our unhappily restrictive environment has affected everyone. And, I believe, it is most difficult for those who lack a religious faith, recognition of a Supreme Being, and a strong disciplinary foundation.

The belief that the current pandemic is just another message, intolerable for us at this moment, requires our constant attention. The discipline factor is an asset acquired by many veterans and service members who understand the integrity of mission, cooperation, sacrifice, attention to detail, and considerate teamwork and respect that results in accomplishment, success, and victory. For many years, I have been concerned about the social decline of the nuclear family and generational family dissolution. The once frequent family gatherings and bonding have given way to satellite

priorities. Birthdays, holidays, and other traditional sharing activities have been interrupted by youth sport and camp activities (not just “down the street, but frequently out of state) that too often take precedence over family. There are many obstacles today in maintaining a strong, interactive family unit. Even faith based practices have been subjugated by individual interests of self-gratification and pleasure. Almost any alternative to reasonable observance of family worship is accepted.

For years social ills have been blamed on the dissolution of the family unit. While I cannot forecast the outcome of “stay at home” and its attendant resurgence of family it may be of some benefit to those whose diverse interests have kept them apart for too long. They may even regain respect for each other; perhaps even spent some time together in prayer.

My intention of this message is to reassure each of you that God’s creation, humankind, is imbued with the power to overcome whatever challenges may appear.

As far as our business is concerned, we look forward to resuming monthly board meetings on 22 July. In the meantime, if you have any questions contact me or any member of your Council Board.

In conclusion I earnestly encourage one and all to keep the faith, maintain your discipline, and keep God smiling by telling Him “your plan!”

“Freedom isn’t Free”

Joe

BG Arthur J. Nattans, USA(Ret)
Council President, and Life Member

Bravo Zulu

With the Sea Cadets



Secretary Burunda (c) and LCDR Roland Franklin (r) with the corps of cadets.



A proud new CPO

Because of the Covid-19 threat there have been no ‘in person’ drills or classes for the young men and women, boys and girls of the Fort McHenry Division and Training Ship Constellation units of the Baltimore Council sponsored units of the Sea Cadets. But

that doesn’t mean that there hasn’t been considerable activity for both the cadets and their officers and instructors. Thanks to the marvels of cyber communication classes are being held regularly, business is being conducted, and, happily, the results are quite remarkable. Only recently we learned that the combined units are ranked 9th in the entire nation in

Bravo Zulu

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Another newly pinned Chief

recruiting and retention. But hold the applause: There's more. The TS Constellation unit of the Navy League Cadet Corps is now ranked NUMBER ONE nationwide. The officers and other staff, the auxiliary, the cadets and parents,

all of those who made it happen have every right to be very proud.

Earlier in the spring, before the pandemic curtailed normal activities, the units that train at the Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) were honored to have as a guest speaker Luis Borunda, Deputy Secretary of State. The occasion was a combined units awards ceremony and chief pinning. Just one more indication of how far we've come from that time, only a few years ago, when these units had almost ceased to exist. ⚓

Just for Fun



At Last

SuperShip Rising

by Alan Walden

It was almost four years ago when, as Baltimore celebrated its first ever Fleet Week, thousands of people gathered at a pier in North Locust Point to witness the commissioning of the world's most revolutionary and powerful surface warship. But, as it turned out, that was only the beginning of a long and tortuous voyage toward acceptance by the Navy of USS Zumwalt (DDG-1000). There followed months, then years of disheartening and frustrating problems to be overcome. The ammunition for her primary weapon was judged to be too expensive (Almost a million dollars a round). The power plant was maddeningly cranky; she actually broke down while passing through the Panama Canal en route to her home port at San Diego. But, at long last, Zumwalt has been accepted (bought in) by the Navy and will now undergo a series of new trials to determine how she may best be deployed in defense of the republic.

Though officially designated a destroyer USS Zumwalt, at 600 feet, is longer than many of the battleships we sent to sea in World War II.



But, because of her revolutionary technology she carries a crew of only 142 and her unique "stealth" design reduces her radar image to that of a small cabin cruiser. Zumwalt is as fast as she is stealthy and carries armament equivalent to that of an entire WWII task force.

As many of you may recall the Baltimore Council played the lead role in the 2016 commissioning. Nor did our responsibility end there. We are among Zumwalt's official sponsors and are the custodians of a last trust fund the proceeds from which are for the benefit of the ship and her crew. ⚓

Our Mission

From Headquarters in Arlington

Dear Navy Leaguer,

Like myself, I'm sure many of you are wrestling with your emotions during these difficult times. It is in times like this that we have hope. We can remind ourselves and each other that we are fortunate to live in a country that is resilient, compassionate and strong. We can be thankful that our nation affords us the freedoms to express our grievances, such as many great leaders have done before — through peaceful protest. Our history has shown us we can be confident that we will come through this stronger and better as a people of the United States of America.

The mission of the Navy League of the United States is to support the men and women of our sea services, for it is those that wear the uniform of our nation that protect these rights and freedoms.

We should always be mindful that we are a diverse nation. The only way diverse nations



Bill Stevenson

can function is by treating one another with dignity and respect.

The values of the Navy League of the United States as set forth in our bylaws are, "No person shall be denied membership due to sex, race, color, religion or national origin." We encourage our members not only during these times of unrest, but every day, to embody the essence

of these words. Our service members serve and sacrifice through times of peace and at war so that United States soil can be a home that embraces the words written in the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

We must honor our sea services by doing all we can through our actions to ensure that we are sowing the seeds that fully support these precious words. Doing anything else would be an injustice to our sea service members and those who have given their all for our nation.

We are never alone when we work together in support of our sea services. ⚓

*Yours faithfully,
Bill Stevenson
National President
Navy League of the United States*

Well Deserved

Bill Fox gets his eagle

On 6 June, as the nation commemorated the 76th anniversary of D-Day a special ceremony took place at Camp Fretterd in Maryland in which Baltimore Council President Joe Nattans had a major role to play. The occasion was the promotion of LTC William M. Fox III, deputy state surgeon for the Maryland Army National Guard, to full colonel. President Nattans, in uniform as a Brigadier General (ret.), was the guest speaker and held the audience in rapt attention as he talked of the greatest amphibious invasion in the history of warfare back in 1944 and the significance of the event for Maryland. The famed 175th Infantry, "The Dandy Fifth," was among the units that went ashore on Omaha Beach that day against



BrigGen Nattans and Colonel Fox

the strongly entrenched and battle tested troops of the Wehrmacht and helped breach the wall of

Hitler's "Fortress Europe;" then fought its way across Europe; thus setting the stage for an end to the

Third Reich less than a year later.

Colonel Fox has had a long and distinguished career as a citizen soldier. He worked in the emergency department at Mercy Medical Center in Baltimore for two decades. In uniform he was deployed to Iraq for Operations Desert Freedom and New Dawn, and to Jordan, with the 29th Division, for Operation Spartan Shield.

The D-Day event at Camp Fretterd was attended by the Adjutant General of Maryland, the Assistant AGs for Army and Air, and about two hundred other military and civilian guests. ⚓

The Bucket List

“Row, row, row your boat.”



USS Missouri at Pearl Harbor

by Alan Walden

“Summertime, and the livin’ is easy.” At least it used to be before we were beset by the miseries of a year most of us would like to forget. But things have begun to loosen up a bit. And Navy Leaguers are just as prone as anyone else to wander off in search of adventure during the summer months. Many of the true believers will use their down time to visit some of the Navy oriented attractions to be found across the nation. We have a few close to home; the artifacts entrusted to the care of Historic Ships in Baltimore. But the battleship brigade will have

go farther – to Camden, NJ, or Norfolk, VA, or Fall River, MA, or Wilmington, NC, or Mobile, AL, or San Pedro, CA. Some may even make it all the way to Pearl Harbor to spend their time on board “Mighty Mo” on which the Japanese surrender was accepted and signed in 1945. A few might even want to come home with a souvenir of their visit. But for even fewer a desk model, or a plaque, or a ball cap just might not be enough. Especially if there’s a lake nearby. ⚓

(NOTE: BB-63 is USS Missouri, third of the four Iowa Class battleships, the last, largest, and most powerful we ever sent to sea.)



The Floating Flag

As Always



Each year, in June, the crew of USCGC James Rankin (WLM-555) places the Francis Scott Key Star-Spangled buoy in Baltimore Harbor at the spot from which Key, temporarily imprisoned on a truce ship, watched the 1814 bombardment of Fort McHenry and wrote the words to a poem that, when set to the tune of an old British drinking song, (Anacreon in Heaven), became the National Anthem of the United States. In the past dozens of guests, public officials, military personnel, Baltimore Council members and other civilians, were on board the Rankin to take part in the ceremony. This

year, however, because of the Covid-19 pandemic, that was not possible. But the Coast Guard accomplished its task as it always does: The ship sailed at the appointed time and the buoy is in its accustomed place: There to remain all summer as a constant reminder of what happened here 206 years ago when the valiant defenders of Baltimore “preserved us a nation.”

The James Rankin is one of the many vessels, installations, and units sponsored and supported by this council as are most of the commands at Curtis Bay, the only Coast Guard Yard in the nation. ⚓



ORGANIZATIONS, INSTALLATIONS, AND VESSELS SPONSORED
AND OTHERWISE SUPPORTED BY THE BALTIMORE COUNCIL-NLUS



Coming Up

- 7/4 Independence Day (1776) *
- 8/7 Purple Heart Day *
- 9/7 Labor Day *
- 9/11 Patriot Day (2001) *
- 9/12 Defenders Day (MD) *
- 9/18 POW/MIA Recognition Day *
- 9/22 Autumnal Equinox (First day of fall)

(*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



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