



ALL AHEAD FULL

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

FALL 2021



FROM THE BRIDGE

Greetings All,

The summer has left us with more

challenges than we had in the spring of '21. Not only the continuing Covid-19 health threat, but also a growing atmosphere of social and political discord at home and concern among international friends and allies, mostly to the manner of our withdrawal from Afghanistan. Add rising fuel costs, the heavy burden on local business, the border issue, and growing international trade deficits and we are faced with a host of nettlesome problems.

They can all be solved. But the first step toward that goal is the establishment of clear priorities. As most of you know the principal audience for this periodical are patriotic and loyal citizens who have served and sacrificed to sustain the freedom and safety of the republic. But all Americans have a role to play in in these troubled time. Awareness is the key. It is imperative that we all remain informed and involved; to know what is happening and why it occurs. How you choose to exercise that involvement is up to the individual.

Our Armed Forces, especially the sea services whose support is our mission, faced their own problems and dealing with them as best they can. Admiral Michael Gilday, Chief of Naval Operations has "determined the Columbia class submarine to be the #1 acquisition priority followed by an integrated and resilient command and control network. The Marine Corps will develop a new organizational

structure, invest in next generation equipment, and pursue supporting doctrine. The U. S. Merchant Marine fleet, under terms of the Jones Act, is currently stabilized at fewer than 200 vessels. It needs to grow. The U.S. Coast Guard, the only uniformed service that is simultaneously a military service, law enforcement regulation agency, and a member of the intelligence community, has suffered lately due to budgetary constraints. More can be learned in the publications of the Navy League regarding maritime policy. .

As a Council, we continue "All Full Ahead" in our commitment in support of active and reserve components of the Sea Services, of the Sea Cadets, and NJROTC and MCJROTC programs. As always, we remain aware that "Freedom is not Free" and that that awareness and preparedness are essential to our liberty. We hope that you do, too. ⚓

Thank you to all who serve our country!

God bless and God speed,

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

Unsung Heroes

Credit Where Well Deserved

AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE VETERANS

2020/21 NATIONAL CONVENTION

September 21st - 24th, 2021 «» Maritime Conference Center «» Linthicum Heights, MD

"When final victory is ours, there is no organization that will share its credit more deservedly than the Merchant Marine." - Dwight D. Eisenhower

by Alan Walden

Too often overlooked despite their honorable and remarkable service to the nation in peace and war the men and women of United States Merchant Marine are finally achieving the recognition they've earned. It was only last year that a Congressional Gold Medal was, at last, struck in their honor and, last month it was time to celebrate properly.

The national convention of the American Merchant Marine Veterans Association brought to Maryland true believers from across the nation. There were four days of meetings and events. On 23 September the attendees gathered at the liberty ship John W. Brown, still operational as a museum ship, as prominent members of the community paid tribute to their service. Among those in the audience were 20 Merchant Marine veterans of World War II, men who served on always perilous voyages, mostly



Mills and Walden



At the S.S. John W. Brown



At Pier 13



The Entertainment



CAPT Al Seeman, USN, and his color guard

Unsung Heroes
Continued from page 1

in the North Atlantic, to carry the men and material with which the tyranny of the enemy was overcome after four long years of deadly conflict; who daily faced the menace posed by U-boats below, surface raiders on, and enemy aircraft above the sea. Eldest among his peers was 101 year old Charlie Mills whose service began on 1937 when he boarded S.S. Carlton, a ship later lost to enemy action in the ill-fated convoy PQ-17. A charter member of the National Maritime Union, Charlie served throughout the war and was, thereafter, an official of the NMU for four decades.

The following evening the action moved to the National Maritime Training and Convention Center in Linthicum Heights for a celebratory banquet. Again, tribute was paid to the Merchant Marine, its history traceable all the way back to 1775, at the birth of the republic. The focus remained, primarily, on WWII; even the entertainment fit the occasion as a trio of gifted performers became a latter-day iteration of the famed Andrews Sisters of the 1940s.

At my urging the Baltimore Council-NLUS

had become a sponsor of the convention and, as past-president, I had the high honor of representing the council at both events and the opportunity to add my voice to those raised in tribute to the Merchant Marine and Maritime Service. Our promise to them was unequivocal; "You will not be forgotten, and our assistance is

yours whenever possible." The motto of the U.S. Merchant Marine during WWII was simple and to the point: "We deliver the goods." And so they did; then, and now. Among the sea services they are, and have always been, "our fourth arm of defense." ⚓

Just for Fun



Onward, Ever Onward

Worthy of Note



by ENS Arundhati Rao, Ft. McHenry Division, USNSCC/NLCC

On Friday, Sept. 10, 2021, the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps celebrated its 59th anniversary. Sea Cadets was founded in 1962 to teach America's youth the significance of maritime service in national defense while instilling a sense of pride and patriotism in our country. Today it continues its mission to "build leaders of character" by providing young men and women fun and educational opportunities to challenge themselves, engage in hands on activities, and learn about the maritime services. Most of the 400 Sea Cadet units throughout the United States participated in 9/11 commemoration events as the nation collectively paused on the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks.

Since the creation of our organization many Sea Cadets have gone on to serve their nation proudly in the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S.



Marine Corps, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Air Force, National Guard, and the U.S. Merchant Marine. Sea Cadets have also gone onto successful careers in industry, academia, government, and other career pursuits. But, since no Sea Cadet is required to commit to a career in the Armed Forces, many have also pursued successful careers in the civilian sector; in private industry, academia, and government.

In conclusion, our thanks go to all the volunteers, parents, and other supporters who help our Sea Cadets succeed.

(Note: The Baltimore Council-NLUS is lead sponsor and supporter of the Ft. McHenry Division / Training Ship Constellation units

of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet and Navy League Cadet Corps.)



While on the subject: This was a banner summer, literally, for Cadet Braedon Moyer of the Fort McHenry Division. With the great Star Spangled "Banner" waving in the background, it stars and stripes providing a spectacular setting for the event, Cadet Moyer was promoted to Chief Petty Officer, the highest enlisted rank attainable in the unit.

Under a brilliant clear summer sky, as Braeden's parents, Mike and Jamie Moyer looked on, LTJG Andrea Thomas did the honors at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine. A new insignia of rank, a new lid, and new responsibilities; for which this young man has proven he is well prepared.

Bravo Zulu, Chief Moyer. ⚓



Short Takes



FMS Aquitaine

One of the most modern warships in the French Navy spent some time in Baltimore in September.

FNS Aquitaine, a sleek and powerful frigate, was here under the auspices of Sail Baltimore to commemorate the 240th anniversary of the Battle of the Chesapeake where a French fleet played a major role in the climactic defeat of the British at Yorktown in 1781.



The U.S. Navy expects to take delivery of the first of a new class of super-carrier by 2028. She carries a grand old name. USS Enterprise (CVN-80), and



USS Enterprise (CVN-80)

has been under early design and initial construction since 2017. Lucas Hicks, VP of New Construction for Huntington-Ingalls Industries says, "It will be the first aircraft carrier built completely using digital drawings and procedures rather

than traditional paper work packages and products. The use of digital data and digital tools is more user-friendly and intuitive, making the execution of shipbuilders' work more efficient."



The Navy has given final approval for the commissioning in Baltimore of the Arleigh Burke Class destroyer USS Carl M. Levin (DDG-120). Although a final date has not yet been chosen it is likely to take place during the celebration of Fleet Week in the fall of 2022. ⚓

Looking Aft

“Fighting Mary”



As commissioned



As reconstructed



At Pearl Harbor in '41

By Alan Walden

Pearl Harbor, Leyte Gulf, seven battle stars, Operation Magic Carpet. All elements in the saga of the battleship USS Maryland (BB-46) as she fought her way across the Pacific in World War II.

Maryland was one of four super dreadnought battleships of the Colorado class; near carbon copies of the preceding Tennessee class with the exception of the main battery, upgraded from twelve 14-inch to eight 16 inch guns in four twin turrets. They were the last class of battleships completed based on standards set before the Naval Treaty of 1922.

Fighting Mary's keel was laid down in April 1917 by Newport News Shipbuilding Company. Launched three years later and commissioned on 21 July 1921 she was the third ship named for the state of Maryland. The first and second were a sloop commissioned in 1799 and an armored cruiser in 1905.

Her career between the World Wars took her to ports around the globe during which time she



Torpedo damage off Saipan

often served as a flagship. Then came 7 December 1941 and the event that plunged the United States into the cataclysm that was World War Two. Moored inboard of the ill-fated Oklahoma (BB-37), therefore immune to torpedo attack, USS Maryland escaped much of the enemy's fury. She suffered two bomb strikes but lost only four of her crew. After repairs and modification Maryland was back in a matter of months. She supported the rest of the fleet at the Battle of Midway, then patrolled the Fiji Islands to guard against a Japanese incursion. Next, she went on the offensive providing shore bombardment in the Battles of Tarawa and Kwajalein. Then, at Saipan, Maryland was hit by a torpedo and suffered damage that required more repairs and another refit.

In 1944, at the Battle of Leyte Gulf, under the command of CAPT Herbert Bay, from the battle line at the mouth of Surigao Strait, she exacted her revenge for Pearl Harbor. Fighting Mary, along with other Pearl Harbor survivors and escorting vessels, ravaged Japanese Admiral Shoji Nishimura's Southern Force with gunfire and torpedoes. Two Japanese battleships, the sisters Yamashiro and Fuso, and all but one of

their escorts, a destroyer, were sunk.

Maryland was hit twice by Japanese suicide planes (Kamikazes). Once at Leyte Gulf and, again, off Okinawa. The latter, a hit on her Number 3 turret, required another round of repairs that had just been completed when the shooting ended in 1945. Still there was more to do. As part of Operation Magic Carpet she made five voyages across the Pacific to bring U.S. troops home from the war. Fighting Mary was then placed in reserve, decommissioned in 1947, and sold for scrap in 1959. But her name and traditions live on.



SSBN-738

The Ohio Class ballistic missile submarine USS Maryland (SSBN-738) was commissioned in 1992 and remains in service. And she has earned her own place in history, albeit in fiction. In the 1994 Tom Clancy novel, “Debt of Honor,” Maryland is one of several submarines sent to deal with an invasion of the Northern Mariana Islands. And in the 1998 television film “Ice,” Maryland is sent to evacuate VIPs from the frozen West Coast of the United States after the coastline has become ice-bound, preventing surface vessels from approaching the shore. ⚓

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



Coming Up

- 10/11 Columbus Day
- 11/2 Election Day
- 11/11 Veterans Day (Show the colors)
- 11/25 Thanksgiving Day
- 11/28 Hanukkah begins at sundown
- 12/1 NLUS Baltimore Council annual meeting
- 12/7 Pearl Harbor Day (1941) (Show the colors)
- 12/21 Winter solstice – First day of winter
- 12/25 Christmas
- 12/26 First Day of Kwanzaa
- 12/31 New Year's Eve

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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