



2003 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

NAVAL  
HISTORICAL  
FOUNDATION

*Building Partnerships*

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# Mission Statement

*To preserve and promote U.S. naval history through:*

- Collection of art, artifacts, manuscripts and oral histories on behalf of the Navy.
- Outreach to the Navy and the American public with speakers, publications and symposiums.
- Support of the Naval Historical Center (Center), particularly The Navy Museum, by donating goods, services and funds to the Navy.
- Response to public requests for Navy related merchandise, historic photograph and document copies, and historical research.

## Collection:

- Art, artifacts, documents and photographs for donation to the Navy.
- Manuscripts and personal papers for donation to Library of Congress.
- Artifacts and papers for donation to other unique federal and private repositories.
- Oral histories in support of a Sea Services oral history program.

## Outreach:

- Attracting new members interested in naval history.
- Publication of periodic newsletter, *Pull Together*, with naval heritage content.
- Maintaining Naval Heritage Speakers Forum to address public gatherings.
- Publication, both print and digital, of important naval history topics.
- Sponsoring symposiums on high interest historical subjects.
- Coordinating with other service historical organizations to promote military history initiatives.

## Support for Naval Historical Center programs:

- Soliciting private and corporate contributions to support naval history.
- Donating funds and services for prizes, internships and conferences.
- Donating funds and services for Navy Museum exhibits and educational programs.

## Public Response:

- Distinctive gifts and books in the Navy Museum Gift Shop.
- High quality reproduction of photographs, cruise books and documents in the Navy's collections.
- Accurate historical research services on naval history topics.

## *Message From the President*

As you will see in the following report, the Naval Historical Foundation has expanded its mission to preserve and promote our naval heritage in the post-11 September 2001 world. We have achieved success through seeking and working with partners with like-minded objectives. Our closest partner is the Naval Historical Center, which hosts our activities at the Washington Navy Yard. In return, all branches of the Naval Historical Center benefit from services and funds provided by our Foundation. The Navy Museum, an important branch of the Center, has received additional support through our operation of the Museum Gift Shop and our fund raising efforts to support the design, construction and installation of the Cold War Gallery in a building adjacent to the main museum.

With pride we can claim the Navy-Marine Corps team is alive and well because we also work closely with the Marine Corps Historical Center. One example is the Sea Service Oral History Project we initiated to digitize the thousands of oral history tape recordings held by the Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard before age and deterioration render them useless. We have also forged partnerships with other service-support organizations on a variety of projects. For example, the Foundation joined with the U.S. Naval Institute and the Naval Submarine League to stage “A Tribute to Captain Edward L. Beach, Jr.” program held in April at the Navy Memorial. In November, we partnered with the Surface Navy Association to assemble a remarkable “Women at Sea” symposium. Other organizations that we work closely with include the Historic Naval Ships Association, Naval Order of the United States, and the Navy League of the United States.

2003 marked the third and final year of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Korean War, and the Foundation continued to support events to honor the service and sacrifice of Navy and Marine Corps personnel in that conflict. As a commemorative partner to the Department of Defense Korean War Commemoration Committee, we provided financial support for another Korean War monograph, the fourth in a series of nine dealing with Navy topics.

*U.S. Navy: A Complete History* our new chronology joined with *The Navy* as coffee-table books that have proven to be very popular with veterans and the American public. We continue to fill requests for our heritage speakers although we would like to see even more requests for this valuable service. The Foundation also underwrote a series of twelve five-minute “Navy Heritage Mini-Series” videos that are now being shown to the fleet as part of General Military Training. We have facilitated greater use of the internet as a source for navy history with the inauguration of the International Journal of Naval History [www.ijnhonline.com](http://www.ijnhonline.com) and the upgrade of our own web site at [www.navyhistory.org](http://www.navyhistory.org).

Of course we continue to meet our challenges because of the generous donations of time and funds from members and others interested in naval history who are committed to our mission of preserving and promoting our naval heritage for many years to come. All in all, 2003, our 77<sup>th</sup> year, was a busy and rewarding year for the Naval Historical Foundation!

Robert F. Dunn  
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy (Retired)



## Organization

The NHF Board of Directors is empowered by the By Laws to exercise accountability of the organization with responsibilities for policy guidance and continuing oversight, and has appointed committees with accountable chairmen to carry out these functions. The Board meets semiannually to review the operations of the Foundation and vote on recommended changes to policy. Admiral James L. Holloway III, USN (Ret.) serves as the Chairman.

The President, Vice Admiral Robert F. Dunn, USN (Ret.), is a member of the Board and functions as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the NHF. While he is not a paid employee, as CEO the President establishes the organizational and operating procedures used by the NHF, evaluates the personnel, and serves as the primary contact point of the NHF with external activities. (A full listing of the Officers and Directors of the NHF may be found on the Foundation's web site.)

The Executive Director, Captain Charles T. Creekman, Jr., USN (Ret.), serves as the Chief Operating Officer, responsible for the day-to-day functioning of the organization. He oversees the activities of NHF employees, and is responsible to the President for administrative and financial matters. He advises the President of any action, issue, policy, request, or change from any source that is considered of interest to the President through daily communication.

The Director of Programs and Development is Dr. David F. Winkler, a Commander in the Naval Reserve. He manages the oral history program, speakers program, monograph publications, newsletters, symposiums, and other programming functions. He also seeks revenue sources to support the NHF and fund naval historical projects.

The Office Manager and Museum Shop Manager is YNC Frank A. Arre, USN (Ret.). He handles reports and correspondence, maintains the Foundation's financial records, and manages the two main revenue generation aspects of the Foundation.

In 1999, the NHF received a grant of \$25K from the Department of Interior to hire individuals to support a Collection Reconciliation Project facilitating the transfer of the remaining significant holdings of the NHF collection to the Library of Congress, the Naval Historical Center, and other repositories. With the expenditure of those funds, this effort appeared to be headed for delays; fortunately, a generous donation from a Foundation member in 2003 will enable us to hire an assistant for part-time curator Ray Godfrey in order to complete this transfer within the next two years.

Janea Milburn, with the assistance of Bill Dilda, operates the NHF Historical Services Division, conducting photographic and related research for paying customers. John Reilly has also handled some fee-related research requests, although as the holder Middendorf Naval History Research Chair, Reilly performs much of his research to support member and general public inquiries.

The NHF has a dedicated and enthusiastic cadre of part-time Museum Gift shop employees, including Richard Bartman, John Zyla, Paul Racine, and Loretta McGill.

## **REPORT ON MEMBERSHIP**

**Background:** In 2003 there was no significant canvassing for new members. Membership increased by four. There was a 90% renewal rate from annual members.

**Remarks:**

NHF membership is 1082. 261 of our members are life members.

- In the past year, at least 34 NHF members have died including Chairman Emeritus and 53-year member of the Foundation, RADM Elliot B. Strauss, who had celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

In 2000, the Foundation began the work to enhance membership benefits through the issuance of various items (hats, pins, etc.) for each level of membership. The following benefits for each level of membership were approved for implementation during 2001, our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, as new members are received and renewals processed.

Active: Membership Card

Sustaining: Lapel Pin and Card

Associate: Coffee Cup, Lapel Pin and Card

Fellowship: Coffee Cup, Lapel Pin and Card

Life: Coffee Cup, Ball Cap, Life Member Lapel Pin, Card and Certificate

All members presently receive the Foundation's *Pull Together* newsletter, invitations to Foundation sponsored events, and progressive discounts on Museum Shop items and Historical Services photo reproductions.

## **REPORT ON COLLECTIONS**

**Background:** Since 1999 the Foundation has obtained outside funding to conduct a "collection reconciliation project" to inventory the Foundation's 77 years of naval artifact acquisitions, enter the information in a database, and distribute the items to appropriate repositories.

**Remarks:** In 2003 we continued an innovative process, first tried in 2001, of facilitating the transfer of important naval artifacts, photos and papers from the aging veterans and their families directly to the collections of the Naval Historical Center without accessioning the material into the Foundation collection. Partnering with a network of Navy League and Naval Order members

in several locations across the nation, we put these volunteers in touch with the veterans with the important items. They assisted in the packaging and shipment of the material, ensuring that it arrived safely and at no expense to the donors.

In addition, as mentioned above in the Organization section, we have received a donation that will enable us to continue the process of turning over our Foundation collection of papers, art and artifacts to the Center and other appropriate repositories.

## **REPORT OF PROGRAMS: ORAL HISTORY**

**Background:** Current program initiatives began in 1996 with the commencement of an oral history program to support the Naval Historical Center. At that time, the Foundation received a \$20,000 grant from Ambassador William H.G. Fitzgerald to hire a part-time oral historian to survey what was available to researchers and conduct interviews as necessary. In December 1997, the program solicited the membership for volunteer interviewers and transcribers. Membership participation enabled the program to expand into a national collection effort and minimize expenses.

### **Remarks:**

- The volunteer interviewer pool consists of approximately 60 volunteers with about one dozen “hard-core” participants. Interviews continued to be conducted and transcribed from coast to coast.
- Recent efforts include: completed interviews and donated memoirs include **Gunner Jess Drewitt Bethard:** destroyer duty in the 1930s and WWII in the Mediterranean and Normandy; **Lieut. Walter Bosch:** Service with the Merchant Marine during WWII and USN during Korea; **Lieut. Comdr. Byron Doenges:** *LST 1033* and *LST 961*, Western Pacific, WWII; **Radioman James Ferren:** Duty in *USS Mount Olympus*; **Senator Tom Harkin:** Fighter Pilot in the Navy and Naval Reserve, 1960s and 70s; **Capt. Robert Wm. Hoel:** Service in WWII in *USS Chepachet* (AO 78); **Lieut. Robert Holliburton:** Naval Service 1924-1946; **Lieut. Davis C. Howes:** *USS Baldwin* (DD 624) at Normandy; **Senator James M. Jeffords:** *USS McNair* (DD 679) during the Suez and Lebanon Crises; **Seaman 1/C Irwin J. Kappes:** *USS Champlin* (DD 601), *USS Moale* (DD 693) Fleet Recreation & Morale Services—14th Naval Dist. WWII; **Lieut. Comdr. Arthur V. Keller, Jr.:** Service 1960-2002 as an enlisted Sailor and Limited Duty Officer; **Congressman Jim Kolbe:** Operations in Vietnam; **Comdr. Catherine A. Leahey:** Pioneer female Surface Warrior and duty with logistical support forces during the 1980s & 90s; **Dr. Philip Karl Boraas Lundeberg:** WWII—*USS Frederick C. Davis*, Historian, Curator; **Capt. Joseph A. Marci, USCG:** U.S. Merchant Marine Academy during WWII and subsequent career; **Lieut. (jg) Ralph N. Nilsen:** U.S. Merchant Marine Academy during WWII and subsequent career; **Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi:** Sensor placement and monitoring operations in Vietnam, 1970; **Signalman Harlan P. Ross,** Naval Armed Guard: Duty on an Army Tug—North Atlantic, England and D-Day; **Rear Adm Gary Roughead:** Chief of Legislative Affairs; Congressman **Edward L. Schrock:** Service in Vietnam and subsequent career; **Kit Semmes:** Admiral’s wife and daughter; **Adm. William N. Small:** VCNO and Naval Aviator during the Cold War; **Vice Admiral John B. Totushek:** Commander Naval

Reserve Force; **Lieut. Maynard B. Williamson:** USS *Maloy* (DE 791) Normandy and the Channel Islands; and **Senior Chief Henry Wristen:** China Incidents 1947.

- The NHF produced copies of these oral histories and memoirs for distribution to libraries at the U.S. Naval Academy, Naval Postgraduate School, and Naval War College, and Naval Historical Center.
- The Foundation continues to support the effort by the Marine Corps Historical Center to digitize the deteriorating audio tape collections of the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard in the Sea Services Oral History Project. This project was underwritten by a \$150,000 grant from the Dillon Fund.
- The Foundation published and distributed to its volunteers and to other naval oral history projects four issues of its oral history newsletter *All Ears*.
- The Foundation purchased published interviews from the USNI oral history program to complete the collection of these volumes in the Naval Historical Center's Operational Archives.
- The Naval Historical Foundation is a partner with the Library of Congress Veterans History Project.

## **REPORT OF PROGRAMS: NAVAL HERITAGE SPEAKERS PROGRAM**

**Background:** The current program was initiated in late 1998 with a call for volunteer speakers. The Foundation maintains and promulgates its roster of speakers, and acts as the go between for the speakers and those organizations that desire a speaker on naval topics.

### **Remarks:**

- The number of volunteers enrolled in the program climbed to 96.
- During the year talks were given by Adm. Holloway, VAdm. Robert Dunn, Dr. David Winkler, Dr. David Rosenberg, David Shirlaw, Michael Gannon, Lawrence Suid, Dan Struble, Jack Crawford, and Robert Cressman.
- Cost to administer and publicize the program was under \$1,000.

## **REPORT OF PROGRAMS: SYMPOSIUMS**

**Background:** The Foundation has assisted the Naval Historical Center with funding to stage symposiums, seminars, and authors nights on naval history topics, particularly in the Navy Museum. In 1999, the Foundation began to actively sponsor and conduct symposia.

**Remarks:** This initiative continued in 2003 with two events held at the Navy Memorial Foundation theater.

- On 22 April the Foundation partnered with the the U.S. Naval Institute and the Naval Submarine League to host "A Tribute to Captain Edward L. Beach, Jr." This event featured four presentations and four commentaries on the life of this noted author and decorated World War II submariner.
- On 20 November, the Foundation worked closely with the Surface Navy Association and OPNAV (N13) to stage the "Women at Sea: 25 Years and Counting" symposium, featuring

Navy men and women who were instrumental in the introduction of women to the surface warfare community in the late 1970s.

Both programs were well-attended and received favorable comments.

## **REPORT OF PROGRAMS: PUBLICATIONS**

**Background:** Over the years the Foundation has published a series of monographs on naval history topics and continues to offer 46 such publications for sale at the Navy Museum Gift Shop. In 1999, the NHF contracted with authors to write monographs to be published by the Naval Historical Center on different topics relating to the Korean War. In addition, following in the wake of the successful coffee table book *The Navy*, published by Hugh Lauter Levin Associates, the Foundation signed a contract with the same company that resulted in the publication of *U.S. Navy: A Complete History* in September 2003.

### **Remarks:**

- *The Navy*, a 350 page illustrated book, edited by Foundation Vice President RAdm. Jerry Holland, features articles by historians and naval officers covering the past and present operations of the U.S. Navy. Since its release in September 2000, over 200,000 copies have been sold nationally at book store chains and through the Navy Museum Shop. *The Navy* has produced over \$300,000 in royalties for the Foundation to date.
- *U.S. Navy: A Complete History* was released in September 2003. Initial reports indicate that some 60,000 copies were sold in the fall and holiday seasons.
- *United States Navy Scrapbook* is a companion to the coffee table books and debuted in the fall of 2003.
- The Foundation also signed a contract with Tide-Mark Press to produce a Navy Art collection calendar for 2004.
- Two Editions of *Pull Together* were published in 2003. The Spring edition focused on the Underwater Archeology survey of D-Day shipwrecks at Normandy. The Fall edition covered Naval Reserve Det. 206's documentation of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Two editions of *Navy Museum News* were sent to Navy Museum donors.
- Four editions of *All Ears* were published and sent to members and other organizations performing naval oral history.
- The Foundation's historian, Dr. Winkler, continues to publish a monthly historical retrospective column in the Navy League publication *Sea Power* and a quarterly column in Surface Navy Association *Surface SitRep*.

## **REPORT OF PROGRAMS: PRIZES**

**Background:** The Foundation has, for a number of years, provided annual support to the Naval Historical Center for the awarding of the Center's Rear Admiral Ernest M. Eller Prize for the best article on naval history. The \$1000.00 award is split evenly between the Center and the Foundation. In addition, the Foundation has sponsored a \$500.00 naval history special prize at

the National History Day competition held annually at the University of Maryland. In 2001 the Naval Historical Foundation established a Naval History Prize to be granted at the direction of the USNA History Dept. for outstanding achievement in history. With the passing of Captain Beach, a long-time board member, the award has been renamed “The Captain Edward L. Beach Prize”

**Remarks:**

- William H. Bartsch won the Center’s Eller prize for his article “Operation Dovetail: Bungled Guadalcanal rehearsal, July 1942” which appeared in the April 2002 *Journal of Military History* and received a \$500 check from the Foundation.
- In June, Steven Pelcovits of Providence, Rhode Island won the Foundation’s \$500 prize for the best naval history entry in the National History Day competition. His presentation was titled “Military Ships and Citizenship: Rights and Responsibilities of Blacks in the Civil War Navy.”
- Mrs. Ingrid Beach joined Foundation President Vice Admiral Dunn in awarding Midshipman First Class Matthew R. Bishop the Naval Historical Foundation Beach History Prize for studies in naval history. The prize consisted of life membership in the Foundation and a copy of *The Navy*. In addition, as this was the first year the prize was given in honor of Captain Edward L. Beach, Mrs. Beach presented Midshipman Bishop with a signed copy of one of her husbands books.

**REPORT OF PROGRAMS: PUBLIC OUTREACH**

**Background:** The Foundation has, for a number of years, responded to inquiries from service members, historians and the American public for naval history information. In some cases the Foundation has been able to provide information at no charge, for example when responding to a request for ships’ history information with a copy of an entry from the *Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*. In other cases, Foundation staff members have been able to direct inquiries to the appropriate branch of the Naval Historical Center or other repositories including the National Archives and Library of Congress. The utility of the Center’s and Foundation’s web sites has encouraged researchers to contact us. For the most part, the Center’s Email addresses are not available to the public, due to staff limitations in the face of thousands of mail and phone inquiries currently being received on an annual basis. Accordingly, the Foundation staff has been responding to an ever increasing number of Email inquiries.

**Remarks:**

- John Reilly, the former head of the NHC Ship’s History Branch, continues to work on a two-day per week basis to handle public inquiries. Board member Ambassador Middendorf has underwritten the bulk of Reilly’s salary with a generous annual donation, and consequently, John Reilly holds the Ambassador J. William Middendorf II Naval History Research Chair.
- The popularity of the *Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*, and the difficulty researchers experience in trying to find copies of the out of print volumes, led Foundation Chairman Admiral James L. Holloway III to make a substantial donation to digitize this reference work. That effort was completed at the end of 2003, and donated to the Navy so that the Naval Historical Center can put the full series on its web site for easy researcher access.

## **REPORT OF PROGRAMS: HISTORICAL SERVICES**

**Background:** Historical Services is a fee-based research and reproduction operation that is designed to fulfill those functions of the Naval Historical Center that the government can no longer fund or staff. It has existed in one form or another since 1993, and has fallen exclusively under the auspices of the Foundation since 1997. We currently have one full time employee and one part time employee, whose salaries are paid from the business they generate. 2003 sales were slightly lower than 2002.

### **Remarks:**

- Gross sales for the year totaled \$121,689, a slight decrease from 2002's \$126,219. Through flyers and letters to various organizations throughout the country, our cruise book reproduction, which started in 2000, has been flourishing. We have practically doubled our production from 2001 and expect further increases with more advertising. The quality and timeliness of work provided by Historical Services has been appreciated by the public and earned repeated favorable feedback.

## **REPORT OF PROGRAMS: NAVY MUSEUM GIFT SHOP**

**Background:** NHF has operated the Pilot House Museum Shop as authorized by SECNAVINST 5755.1A (Navy Museums) and a Memorandum of Understanding between NHF and the Naval Historical Center of November 1996. Proceeds from the Gift Shop operation in the form of funds, goods and services are donated to the Naval Historical Center for the support of the Museum's programs in accordance with Navy gift acceptance procedures.

### **Remarks:**

- Gross sales for 2003 totaled \$156,218, which was up by 4% from the 2002 figure of \$148,857, but still substantially lower than sales experienced prior to September 11, 2001. In that regard, restricted public access to the Navy Yard in the wake of that event, and the continued closure of the Museum on weekends, has resulted in a 50% drop in visitorship at the Navy Museum, with a consequent reduction in sales. It is expected that sales will increase when the Museum reopens on weekends in 2004.
- A sales booth was set up in the recently completed Town Center located on the Navy Yard. After four months of operation, the profit margins did not justify continued operation. A display case remains in the Town Center, with sales items that are changed out on a monthly basis and prominent signs directing consumers to the Museum Gift Shop.
- The NHF book donation program has enabled members to donate books and receive a tax-deduction and has added inventory to the store at no cost. John Reilly manages the program which has generated brisk sales, and provided important books to the Navy Department Library.

## REPORT OF PROGRAMS: SUPPORT OF THE NAVAL HISTORICAL CENTER AND THE NAVY MUSEUM

**Background:** Support for the Naval Historical Center has been an important aspect of NHF's mission since the Navy Museum opened in the early 1960s in the Washington Navy Yard. The NHF began operation of the Navy Museum Gift Shop in 1983 under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Navy that permitted the Foundation to donate goods and services funded from the proceeds from the Gift Shop operation in support of naval history programs. In 1987, the NHF created a committee to oversee Foundation support for the Museum. This committee, known as "The Navy Museum Foundation," remains a project of the parent NHF, rather than a separate nonprofit entity. In addition to Museum support, the Foundation provides funding for other Center branches to acquire historic art, artifacts, books and papers, and to support important Center events.

### Remarks:

- NHF provided over \$180,000 in direct financial support and contributory staff assistance to the Center in 2003.
  - Assisted with Museum educational program and exhibit updates during a busy post-9/11 year, as the impact of decreased public access to the Navy Yard began to affect visitor levels and the number of events held at the Museum.
  - Provided a large number of photos from the Navy's historical photograph collection and other repository collections for illustrations in several book and monograph projects.
  - Provided funds and editorial expertise to publish and distribute two issues of the joint NHC-NHF newsletter, *Pull Together*.
  - Purchased art, artifacts, books, and oral histories to enhance the Center's collections.
  - Purchased archival storage containers to support the Operational Archives Branch's relocation of records incident to installation of compact shelving.
  - Supported or co-sponsored four important naval history conferences, including ones on Capt. Beach, the Korean War, and Women in the Navy.
  - Continued to sustain the unique on line academic publication, *International Journal of Naval History*.
- Additional Foundation staff support involved hundreds of hours to:
  - Answer many public inquiries on naval history matters by providing historical data, photograph reproductions, cruise book and publication copies that would otherwise have been the responsibility of the Naval Historical Center to handle.
  - Solicit from the public and then facilitate the donation to the Center's collections of a wide variety of books, memoirs, photographs and artifacts.
  - Continue an innovative partnership with Navy League and Naval Order members in locations nationwide to assist aging veterans in the packaging and shipping of their memorabilia, including a particularly significant D-Day related collection and the papers of the 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet Commander during the Korean War. In a continuation of the Foundation's 1999 collection reconciliation project, 97 items in the Foundation's collection were donated to the Center.
  - Administer funding in support of the Center's Underwater Archaeology Branch.

- The major initiative in 2003 was the commitment by the Naval Historical Foundation to fund the design effort for the exhibits to be contained in the Cold War Gallery in building 70, adjacent to the main Navy Museum building. That building is expected to be turned over to the Center in early 2004 after a \$2.6M Military Construction Project funded by the Navy to convert the historic David Taylor Experimental Model Basin building to an-exhibit ready museum building. The Foundation has already partnered with the Naval Submarine League to successfully remove the “Fast Attacks and Boomers” submarine centennial exhibit from the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of American History in mid-2003. That exhibit will be an important component of the “Confronting the Soviet Navy” part of the Cold War Gallery. Scriptwriters have been hired by the Foundation to assist Navy Museum Staff in developing the story line for the exhibits. The Foundation has also begun the search for a fund raising counsel company to conduct a feasibility study in 2004 to validate the possibility of raising at least \$3 million to fund the exhibit design, construction and installation.