By Vice Adm. Frank Pandolfe, USN (Ret.)  President, Naval Historical Foundation

2020 was a tremendously challenging year for us all due to the COVID pandemic, and it was no different for the Naval Historical Foundation (NHF). If one was to choose a single word to describe NHF’s work last year, “adaptability” would be it. Kudos go out to the entire NHF staff for swiftly adapting to changing circumstances and seamlessly transitioning to a telework environment.

Starting with last year’s Voices of Maritime History competition, NHF greatly expanded our presence on the web. By sailing deeper into the digital realm and teaming with like-minded organizations, NHF expanded its outreach to audiences sharing our interest in naval history. In addition to conducting our Second Saturday webinars, we published our weekly Thursday Tidings e-letters and resumed publication of the International Journal of Naval History (IJNH). Our naval history recognition program also continued apace, although we deferred some award presentations until large gatherings can resume.

Moving further into the digital realm also has led to a modest increase in membership. Yet we have further work to do in that area and ask for your help. Financially, 2020 was a very difficult time. The Navy Museum store – a major source of our income – was closed, along with the museum itself. On the positive side, the federal government’s Paycheck Protection Program allowed us to weather the worst of 2020. Even more important was your generosity. Personal contributions from our members and corporate sponsorship for our activities carried us through the storm. We are most grateful for your continuing support.

In the following paragraphs, I will provide an overview of four areas of NHF engagement: Recognition, Outreach, Membership, and Finance. You can learn more about each area by contacting our staff and attending the NHF Annual Meeting in June. Like last year, it will be a virtual event due to the impact of COVID.

Recognition

One of NHF’s primary missions is to recognize individuals who have broadened public understanding about our rich naval heritage. Whether it be a book review published in Thursday Tidings or new scholarship offered in IJNH, NHF aims to encourage innovative studies. Additionally, where we can, we single out individuals for acknowledgment. Examples in 2020 included the following:

- Mr. James D. Hornfischer was selected to receive the NHF’s Distinguished Service Award for his accomplishments as an author and promoter of noteworthy books on naval history.
- Dr. Michael Crawford and Capt. Peter Swartz were chosen to receive the 2020 Commodore Dudley W. Knox Medal for Lifetime Achievement in the field of naval history.
- Midshipman Joseph Bunyard, USNA, won the “Voices of Maritime History” competition for the USNA Superintendent’s Annual Leadership Award with his essay on the importance of networks in an age of great power competition.
- Midshipman Joseph Koch, USNA, earned the annual Captain Edward L. Beach Prize for organizing interviews with members of the USNA Class of ’57 on the Vietnam War and, subsequently, documenting the impact of COVID-19 at the U.S. Naval Academy.
- Midshipman Mahlon Sorensen, Yale University, earned the Vice Admiral Robert F. Dunn Grand Prize for his essay “George Foster Emmons: The Life of a Midshipman.”
- Ms. Jesse Henderson, Bradley Central High School, in Cleveland, Tennessee, (Senior Level) and Ms. Kathryn Lucente, Red Maple Academy, in Milford, Connecticut, (Junior Level) each received Captain Ken Coskey National History Day Prizes for their research covering pioneering women in naval aviation history.
- The NHF continued its “Teachers of Distinction Award” program to recognize teachers who supported the preparation of student naval history projects for National History Day.
Outreach

NHF’s 2020 Annual Meeting was conducted virtually for the first time. This proved very successful, drawing over two hundred viewers. This great turnout was largely due to a spirited kickoff by then-Secretary of the Navy Kenneth Braithwaite, a video appearance by actor Tom Hanks, and a stellar David T. Leighton Annual Lecture delivered by Dr. Craig Symonds, who spoke on the movie Greyhound’s depiction of the Battle of the Atlantic during the Second World War.

Tom Hanks introduced the David T. Leighton Lecture with Dr. Craig Symonds – “Hollywood and History”.

Since that annual meeting was conducted on the second Saturday of June, we decided to continue producing monthly webinars under the title Second Saturday. Our July Second Saturday program brought back Dr. Symonds, as well as former Secretary of the Navy Dr. John Lehman, to discuss the relative merits of C.S. Forester’s fictional Horatio Hornblower and Patrick O’Brian’s Jack Aubrey. That panel was most capably moderated by Dr. John Hattendorf.

For August, we teamed with the Navy Reserve and welcomed Vice Adm. John Mustin, its new commander, with a program that was simulcast to Navy Operational Readiness Centers across the nation. That Second Saturday featured presentations by our staff historian Dr. Dave Winkler and author John Morton about the history of the Navy Reserve.

Run Silent, Run Deep by Capt. Edward “Ned” Beach was the subject of September’s webinar, with a presentation about submarine warfare in World War II given by Capt. Jim Bryant, Dr. David A. Rosenberg, and Captain Beach’s widow, Ingrid. That session also featured fascinating commentary by Adm. Tom Fargo, Vice Adm. Al Konetzni, and Rear Adm. John Padgett.

In October, we honored the legacy of naval officer and author Herman Wouk by discussing his classic study of men under stress: The Caine Mutiny. That superb panel featured retired Captains Kevin Miller and David Kennedy, who brought their unique expertise as fiction and screenplay writers to the program.

Dr. John Lehman again pitched in by opening November’s Second Saturday webinar, which focused on Theodore Roosevelt and his book, The Naval War of 1812. That panel included commentary from four noted naval historians: 2020 Knox Medal selectee Dr. Michael Crawford, Dr. Scott Mobley, Dr. James C. Renfrow, and Dr. William Leeman.

Finally, in December 2020, NHF teamed Dr. Seth Cropsey and Dr. Henry J. “Jerry” Hendrix to discuss Rear Admiral A.T. Mahan’s The Influence of Sea Power upon History within the context of today’s complex international relations.

Throughout 2020, NHF continued to publish our Thursday Tidings e-letter – assembled by former NHF staff editor Ens. Sean Bland - which shared a variety of naval history items submitted by our members. Among many rich offerings, Thursday Tidings featured book reviews and “author chats” with recently published maritime writers such as Capt. Kevin Miller, author of a fictional account of the Battle of Midway, The Silver Waterfall; Dr. Jason W. Smith, creator of To Master the Boundless Sea: The U.S. Navy, The Marine Environment, and the Cartography of Empire; Dr. Scott Mobley, creator of Progressives in Navy Blue: Maritime Strategy, American Empire, and the Transformation of U.S. Naval Identity, 1873-1898; and Dr. Ryan D. Wadle, who wrote Selling Sea Power: Public Relations and the U.S. Navy, 1917-1941.

Additionally, we continued to issue our quarterly NHF 2020 Annual Report.
NHF 2020 Annual Report

NHF magazine, *Pull Together*, in both printed and electronic form. February’s edition was a tribute to long-time NHF president and chairman, Admiral James L. Holloway III. We are very grateful at NHF for his many years of leadership and service to our organization, our Navy, and our nation. *Pull Together* also published a mid-year edition featuring Tom Hanks on the cover, portraying Capt. Ernest Krause as commanding officer of USS *Keeling* in the movie *Greyhound*.

As noted, in 2020 *IJNH* went back into digital production under the stewardship of Capt. Charles Chadbourn of the Naval War College. That journal published eight peer-reviewed articles over the course of the year, including Joseph Bunyard’s “Voices of Maritime History” prize-winning essay, “Network Survivability in the Age of Great Power Competition.” To see those articles and the current edition of *IJNH* visit [www.ijnhonline.org](http://www.ijnhonline.org). Of note, we were pleased to honor Capt. Chadbourn as NHF’s 2020 Volunteer of the Year in recognition of his services as editor-in-chief of *IJNH* and for his work in coordinating the NHF Teachers of Distinction awards program.

NHF also support the Naval History and Heritage Command in many ways last year, including digitizing the 13-volume series *Naval Documents of the American Revolution*; responding to historical inquiries made by senior officials; and serving as a clearinghouse for books, artifacts, and historical papers offered by the general public for donation.

Finally, throughout 2020, the NHF staff answered hundreds of phone calls and e-mail queries on naval history, accepted book donations, and found homes for various naval artifacts and personal paper collections. They stand ready to help you, as well, if you have something to preserve regarding naval history.

**Membership**

As of December 31, 2020, NHF had 1,005 members. We have been at nearly this same level for several years now and we need to bring in fresh members, including students, active duty service-members, retirees, and members of the general public who are interested in naval history.

Therefore, we are renewing our emphasis on growing membership in 2021, aiming to expand our base of supporters. Capt. Jim Noone is leading this effort, which is critical to our future success. **A Membership Plan of Action for 2021** is in place, with a goal of increasing our rolls to at least 1,200 members by the end of the year. This plan includes renewed outreach to USNA and NROTC students, Navy Reserve members, viewers of *Second Saturdays*, and friends of current members.

You can assist by recruiting new members or gifting memberships to your friends, relatives, former shipmates, business associates, etc. We had 21 gift memberships awarded in the first quarter of 2021 and hope for even more later in the year. Please pitch in to help this critical effort. Contact NHF Membership Director Tyler Robinson (trobison@navyhistory.org) with any questions you may have.
Finances

2020 was an especially challenging year for revenue generation, as our in-person fundraising events all were canceled due to COVID. And, as mentioned, the pandemic shut down the Navy Museum store, resulting in a major loss of NHF revenue. On the brighter side, we did receive an exceptionally generous donation from the estate of Cdr. Edward Andrew Wilde, a former NHF life member who was very involved in our activities. Another important source of revenue was the Paycheck Protection Program, which greatly helped us meet payroll. Additionally, our Investment Account grew approximately 10% due to a strong stock market. Of special note, donations from our members constituted a major part of our revenue in 2020, as they do every year. These revenue streams helped to mitigate our losses for the year.

On the expenses side of the ledger, our largest obligations were programs such as generating book reviews and other postings of naval historical interest; publishing Pull Together; maintaining websites to promote NHF, the Navy Museum Store, and IJNH; administering our recognition programs to acknowledge scholarship; maintaining NHF’s oral history and memoir collections; and responding to inquiries regarding naval history. Our second largest expense involved administrative support to maintain our computer networks and office infrastructure as well as our annual audit. COVID has prevented in-person events thus far in 2021, thus continuing to impact our ability to generate revenue. We do have in-person events scheduled for the second half of 2021. We strongly encourage you to contribute to our mid-year and end-of-year appeals, donate online, and participate in our webinars and live programming scheduled for the Summer and Fall months. In closing, please let me say that NHF exists because of you and your support. We are deeply grateful to all our donors and volunteers who support the important mission of ensuring that naval history continues to live in the mind of America and the world. Thank you all.
Annual Meeting Preview

By Rear Adm. Sonny Masso, USN (Ret.)

First, let me say it has been a continuing joy to serve for the past two years as your executive director. One of the great benefits of this job has been the pleasure to work with a stellar staff. Retired GySgt. Harold Bryant keeps the correspondence moving and the bills paid, our staff historian Dave Winkler helps get these Pull Togethers out and handles historical programs and inquiries, retired Lt. Cdr. Jacqueline Natter has ably coordinated a number of events, and John Royal has kept the Navy Museum Store in operation throughout the pandemic. We recently bid farewell to our membership coordinator, Ens. Sean Bland, to enable him to complete his seminary studies as part of his education for the Chaplain Corps. A history major at Yale, Sean was responsible for the creation of our ongoing weekly Thursday Tidings e-letters. We wish him well in what we predict will be a wonderful career serving God, the Navy, and the nation. For his replacement, we recruited Tyler Robinson, who came to us interested in volunteering while he sought employment up on the Hill after having attained an M.A. at St. Andrews in Scotland. We hope to retain Tyler for some time to come!

We have a great annual meeting planned for you. Admiral Fallon will start the 11 a.m. virtual gathering with opening observations about the state of the Foundation, and Vice Adm. Frank Pandolfe will give the president’s report. Then you will hear the customary reports from our executive committee with Rear Adm. Vince Griffiths covering finances, Capt. Jim Noone reporting on membership, and Dr. David Rosenberg covering recognitions, to include announcing the 2021 recipients for the Commo. Dudley W. Knox Medal for Lifetime Achievement in the field of naval history. Admiral Fallon will rejoin us to invite you to confirm the following individuals who have been appointed to the board over the past year in accordance with the by-laws of the NHF.

- **The Honorable Kenneth J. Braithwaite II:** As Secretary of the Navy, Braithwaite announced plans to move the Navy Museum outside of the boundaries of the Navy Yard, and that process is forging ahead. Prior to serving as the 77th Secretary of the Navy, the retired Navy Reserve rear admiral served as the U.S. Ambassador to Norway. A native of Michigan, Braithwaite graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1984 and subsequently earned designation as a naval aviator. He transitioned into the public affairs community before leaving active duty in 1993. Having completed coursework with both the Naval War College and the Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell Air Force Base, he earned a master’s degree in government administration from the University of Pennsylvania. Before his appointment to represent the United States in Norway, Braithwaite served as a top advisor to Senator Arlen Specter and held government affairs positions with several corporations during a period in which he often returned to active duty to serve in Iraq, Pakistan, and Norfolk. His final Navy Reserve billet was Vice Chief of Information.

- **Adm. James G. Foggo:** Having retired from the U.S. Navy during 2020 after a successful tour as Commander, United States Naval Forces Europe-Africa and Commander, Allied Joint Force Command, Naples, Foggo gained a strong appreciation for the Navy’s historical assets in his previous tour as the Director of Navy Staff. A native of Virginia, Foggo graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1981 and served much of his career with the submarine force, attaining command in Oklahoma City (SSN-723). In addition to his Annapolis education, Foggo was named an Olmsted Scholar and Moreau Scholar, earning a master’s degree in public administration at Harvard University and a Diplome d’Études Approfondies in Defense and Strategic Studies from the University of Strasbourg, France. Subsequent senior-level tours had a Eurocentric focus to include command of the United States Sixth Fleet. He was a NATO Task Force commander in Joint Task Force Unified Protector (Libya). During his time in service, he developed his strong passion for
history within the context of contemporary operations.

- **Rear Adm. Sinclair Harris:** Currently the client relations executive for LMI, Harris was a witness to much history as a surface warfare officer who earned his commission through Officer Candidate School following graduation from James Madison University in 1981. A native of the nation’s capital, he had numerous sea assignments culminating with command in Comstock (LSD 45) and Amphibious Squadron 4/Iwo Jima Strike Group. Harris earned a master of science in operations analysis from the Naval Postgraduate School in 1989 and is a graduate of the Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk, Virginia. He also earned an M.A. in defense and strategic studies from the University of Madras, India’s Defence Services Staff College in Tamil Nadu, India. Ashore he drew numerous strategic-related assignments. Final tours included that of Commander of U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command and United States 4th Fleet and then as vice director for operations on the Joint Chiefs of Staff. As president of the National Naval Officers Association, Harris has been in the forefront of recognizing the achievements of minorities serving in the sea services.

- **Mr. Roger A. Krone:** The current chief executive officer for Leidos, Krone has served as a judge in the NHF’s Voices of Maritime History Competition. Having obtained his bachelor’s degree in aerospace engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1978, Krone first worked for General Dynamics before joining McDonnell Douglas in 1992, which merged with Boeing five years later. Along the way he earned a master’s degree in aerospace engineering at the University of Texas in Arlington and a master of business degree from the Harvard Business School. Before coming to Leidos in 2014 as the CEO, he served as the president of Network and Space Systems at Boeing, leading approximately 15,000 employees in 35 states. In addition to his interest in history, Krone is a licensed pilot and marathon runner.

Following the confirmation vote for our nominated board members, we will provide a brief of our past and forthcoming programs and field queries from the membership on issues related to the Foundation’s mission. We will then introduce our Cdr, David T. Leighton Lecturer — Capt. Daniel Pedersen — who will discuss the founding of the Navy Fighter Weapons School — TOPGUN. Following the presentation, he will be joined by fellow TOPGUN veteran Darrell “Condor” Gary to take your questions.

We look forward to seeing you on June 12!

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**About our Leighton Lecturer:**

Capt. Daniel Pedersen entered the Navy as an enlisted man in the Naval Reserve in 1954. After receiving orders to flight training, he was commissioned and designated a Naval Aviator in 1957. Captain Pedersen’s initial tours were with squadrons VFAW-3 and VF-92. In January 1960, he joined VF-213 via VF-121. During this tour he made several cruises aboard Hancock (CVA 19). His next two years were spent at Fleet Anti-Air Warfare Center, Fleet Programming Center Pacific. In January 1966, Captain Pedersen returned to VF-121 and subsequently to VF-92. During his next tour he helped establish the Navy Fighter Weapons School [TOPGUN] and was its first director. After a year, he then served as Operations Officer of VF-21. In August 1971, Captain Pedersen attended Naval War College and obtained a bachelor of arts degree. On July 1, 1973, he assumed command of VF-143 and flew in direct support of the recovery of the SS Mayaguez. He later served as Commander CVW-15, Assistant Chief of Staff to Commander Task Force 77/Commander CarGru 5, and commanded Wichita (AOR 1). During this time Wichita was awarded the Battle “E” for 1979. Captain Pedersen took command of the Ranger on October 20, 1980.
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Capt. James A. Noone
The Hon. B.J. Penn
Dr. David A. Rosenberg
Mr. Michael J. Wallace
(*pending membership approval)

Chairman Emeritus: Adm. Bruce DeMars

Directors Emeritus
Vice Adm. Robert F. Dunn

Foundation Staff (As of April 30, 2021)
Executive Director: Rear Adm. Edward “Sonny” Masso
Special Asst. to the Executive Director: Lt. Cdr. Jacqueline Natter Brand
Staff Historian and Director of Programs: Dr. David F. Winkler
Director of Membership and Digital Outreach: Mr. Tyler Robison

Museum Store Clerk: Mr. John R. Royal

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It is your support that helps us preserve and honor the legacy of those who came before us and educate future generations on the important role our nation’s naval history plays in the maritime domain. Please consider sustaining us through one or more of the following options:
- Gifts of stock
- Planned giving
- Sustained giving
- Annual cash donations
- Workplace or matching employee donations

You can also help us by volunteering. In the Washington, D.C., region we always need a set of extra hands in the office. We also welcome subject matter experts across the nation to assist with Naval History Book Reviews.
Thank You to Our Donors!

The Naval Historical Foundation is grateful to all our donors. We thank you for your ongoing support. This list reflects contributions of $250 and above received during the 2020 calendar year.

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