

NHF 2021 Annual Report

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

Overview

“Steady as you go” describes NHF’s work during 2021. Under the leadership of Adm. “Fox” Fallon, Rear Adm. Sonny Masso and our staff, we kept NHF on an even keel through the second year of pandemic restrictions. As the precautions continued, we honed our social media skills through on-line publication of *Thursday Tidings* e-letters, *Second Saturday* webinars, and the *International Journal of Naval History*. Our fund-raising efforts and recognition programs continued as well, and as restrictions eased, we again began hosting public events to honor special individuals.

Further, we reopened the store inside the Navy Museum, which is an historic source of income for NHF. Even during the worst days of the pandemic, our store manager, Mr. John Royal, kept the operation going through on-line sales. In October 2021, we held our first naval history used-book sale in the museum, netting over \$4,000 in profits for NHF on the resale of books largely donated by members. Restrictions now have been lifted on hosting large gatherings in the museum – another import source of revenue in the past.

Most important for the survival of NHF during the past two years of pandemic has been the steadfast generosity of our members, recently demonstrated by your response to the 2021 end-of-year appeal. We are most grateful for your continuing support.

Recognizing Achievement

One of the best ways to promote naval history is to recognize individuals who have broadened the public’s understanding and appreciation of our naval heritage. Whether by a book review published in *Thursday Tidings* or a new scholarship offered in *The International Journal of Naval History*, NHF encourages innovative studies in the field of naval history.

Recognition of deserving individuals also is essential to NHF’s mission. In our 2020 virtual annual meeting, we announced Dr. Michael Crawford and Capt. Peter Swartz as recipients of the 2020 Commodore Dudley W. Knox Medal for lifetime achievement in the field of naval history. Their well-deserved awards were presented to them in person last August at a recognition luncheon at the Army Navy Country Club in Arlington. Also at that event, we saluted our 2021 Volunteer of the Year, Dr. Charles Chadbourn of the Naval War College, for the superb way he fulfilled his duties as editor-in-chief of the *International Journal of Naval History*.

Subsequently, we announced that Dr. Robert Browning, Dr. Thomas Hone, and Dr. Kathleen Broome Williams had earned the Knox honor for 2021. We recognized this trio of

deserving scholars at a September 2021 banquet held at the Annapolis Doubletree hotel, an event that coincided with the McMullen Naval History Symposium at the U.S. Naval Academy.

That venue also provided us an opportunity to salute Midn. Jennifer Sun, who won our fourth Voices of Maritime History Competition for the Superintendent's Annual Leadership Award, for her essay on interwar Fleet Problem IX. At the 2021 virtual annual meeting, we also announced that noted naval author Mr. James Hornfischer had been selected to receive our foundation's Distinguished Service Award for his tireless work to promote history through his writings and for his selfless support of other authors. In addition:

- Midn. Robert "Bo" Schrader, USNA, earned the Capt. Edward L. "Ned" Beach Prize in recognition for his superb contributions as a history major at the U.S. Naval Academy.
- Midn. Will Stefanou, University of San Diego, earned the Vice Adm. Robert F. Dunn Grand Prize for his essay "Six Cornerstones of Naval Tactics and Our Future."
- Ms. Jesse Henderson of Cleveland, Tennessee, received the Capt. Ken Coskey National History Day Prize (Senior Level) for her video titled "Aerographer's Mates: Communicating Weather from Sea to Shining Sea."
- Ms. Rebecca Bemiss of Plattsville, Connecticut, received the Capt. Ken Coskey National History Day Prize (Junior Level) for her video "Mavis Batey and the Geese that Never Cackled."

NHF also recognized the following educators as "Teachers of Distinction" in support of National History Day: Julie Mitchell of Cleveland, TN; Brian Zawadniak of Plattsville, CT; Stephanie Hammer of Stanardsville, VA; Megan Sourchek of New Caney, TX; Justin Carroll of Edmond, OK; Alfred Meadows of New Haven, CT; and Cathy Kerns of Chadron, NE. Kudos to Capt. Jim Noone and the Dr. Chadbourn for their generosity in making those awards possible.

We were especially pleased to honor Lt. Cdr. Sean Walsh as NHF 2021 Volunteer of the Year for his work as copy editor for *Thursday Tidings* and support of the *Second Saturday* webinars.

Commemoration and Outreach

Last Summer during our virtual annual meeting, in anticipation of release of *Top Gun: Maverick*, we asked Capt. Dan Pederson, a founder of the Navy Fighter Weapons School, to deliver the Cdr. David T. Leighton Lecture. This was followed by commentary provided by two Top Gun alums, Vice Adm. Thomas "Killer" Kilcline and Vice Adm. Walter E. "Slapshot" Carter. We encourage you to view this presentation on YouTube and share it with your friends.

Also on YouTube, remember to look for the *Second Saturday* webinars that we produced during 2021:

January – “Desert Shield/Storm 30th Anniversary” roundtable with Rear Adm. Sam Cox, Capt. Peter Haynes, and Capt. Daniel Thompson

February – “The Legacy of Vice Adm. Sam Gravelly” with Dr. Regina Akers, Cdr. Paul Stillwell, the Honorable B. J. Penn, and Rear Adm. Julius Caesar.

March – “The *Thresher* Tragedy” with Capt. Jim Bryant, Dr. Norman Friedman, and Mr. Stephen Walsh.

April – “In Country Vietnam” with Dr. John Sherwood, Lt. Cdr. Tom Cutler, Vice Adm. David Robinson, Capt. Richard Krulis, and Lt. Rolland Kidder.

May – “Nelson at Sea” with Stephen Howarth, Dr. Andrew Lambert, Adm. Jamie Foggo, and Vice Adm. Jeremy Kyd, RN.

June – “Top Gun” with Capt. Dan Pederson, Vice Adm. Thomas Kilcline, and Vice Adm. Walter E. Carter.

July – “Navy Baseball & the Second World War” with Mr. Matt Eng and Cdr. Paul Stillwell.

August – “Art of the Sea – The Works of Arthur Beaumont” featuring his son, Mr. Geoffrey Beaumont.

September – “9/11- The 20th Anniversary” with Adm. Vern Clark and Adm. Robert Natter.

October – “Leyte Gulf” with Adm. James Holloway III (filmed in 2009), Mr. Trent Hone, and Cdr. Paul Stillwell.

November – “*Olympia* – The Arrival of the Unknown” with Patrick K. O’Donnell, Dr. David Winkler, and Ms. Kara Newcomer.

December – “Kimmel, Pearl Harbor, and Accountability” the Honorable Steven Honigman, Dr. Randy Papadopoulos, and Dr. David Rosenberg.

In addition to our monthly *Second Saturday* webinars, we continued to publish NHF’s *Thursday Tidings* e-letter, assembled under the able hand of our editor, Mr. Tyler Robinson. *Thursday Tidings* features Naval History Book Reviews, Author Chats with recently published maritime authors, and a variety of naval history news items and article submissions from

members.

In 2021, we also published two editions of NHF's *Pull Together* magazine. The Spring edition focused on "The Art of the Sea" and included our annual report, and the Fall edition highlighted the centennial of the arrival of the Unknown Soldier. We also paid tribute to cherished friends of NHF who we lost during the year, including Dr. J. Phillip London, Senator John W. Warner, Mr. James Hornfischer, Capt. Edward Bronson, Rear Adm. John T. Mitchell, and Navy Department Librarian Mr. Glenn Helm.

Finally, in 2021 the *International Journal of Naval History* restarted digital production under the stewardship of Dr. Charles Chadbourn of the Naval War College. To view, please visit www.ijnhonline.org. And, as always, our NHF staff continued to field hundreds of calls and e-mails on naval history queries, accept book donations, and find homes for other artifacts and personal paper collections. We stand ready to help you, if you have something you wish to preserve regarding naval history.

Membership

As of 31 December 2021, NHF had 987 members. Although our membership has remained consistent over time, thanks to digital outreach, we now also have 5,290 subscribers on YouTube and 7,358 followers on Facebook. We are striving to expand our membership further in 2022 and we ask for your help.

Finances

As of 31 December 2021, NHF held \$1,220,104.00 in its investment account with \$109,854.00 at the credit union. NHF started the year with \$1,330,576.00 in its investment account with \$81,341.91 at the credit union. However, a lack of income largely due to COVID restrictions and a decline in the valuation of our investment account have significantly weakened our financial situation. NHF's resources as of 31 May 2022 are \$1,099,000.00.

These assets fund a broad array of NHF services. They include producing knowledge content through the dissemination of book reviews and other postings of naval historical interest, publishing *Pull Together* quarterly, maintaining three websites to promote NHF and naval history, operating the Navy Museum Store, supporting *International Journal of Naval History*, administering recognition programs to acknowledge scholarship, maintaining the oral history and memoir collections, and responding to naval history inquiries from the general public.

In addition, NHF supports the Naval History and Heritage Command in many ways, including by completing digitization of the 13-volume series *Naval Documents of the American Revolution*, providing technical expertise in response to historical inquiries, and serving as a

clearinghouse for books, artifacts, and historical papers offered by the general public for donation.

Board Members

Leadership

Chairman: Adm. William J. Fallon

President: Vice Adm. Frank Pandolfe

Vice President: Mr. Martin J. Bollinger

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Mr. Michael J. Wallace

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Directors Emeritus

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The Hon. J. William Middendorf

Vice Adm. William H. Rowden

Foundation Staff

Executive Director: Rear Adm. Edward "Sonny" Masso

Special Asst. to the Executive Director: GySgt. Harold Bryant

Staff Historian and Director of Programs: Dr. David F. Winkler

Director of Digital Outreach: Mr. Matt Eng

Museum Store Clerk: Mr. John R. Royal

Holloway Society

The Admiral James L. Holloway III Society supports the Naval Historical Foundation through a pledge of support of \$100,000 or more.

Mrs. Connie Allard Jr.

Mr. Robert C. (Jr.) & Terrye Bellas

Mr. Martin J. Bollinger

Mr. John K. Castle

Dr. Jennifer London

Mr. Corbin McNeill

Amb. J. William Middendorf

Mr. Michael J. & Victoria Wallace

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Your support helps NHF preserve and honor the legacy of those who came before us and educate future generations on our nation's naval history. Please consider sustaining NHF 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 region we always need a set of extra hands in our Navy Yard office. We also welcome subject matter experts to assist with *Naval History Book Reviews*. Your contribution will be appreciated!