

AMERICAN

MERCHANT MARINE

VETERANS

NEWS MAGAZINE

Special Convention Edition

"I trust Congress will soon provide similar opportunities to members of the Merchant Marine who have risked their lives time and time again during war for the welfare of their country."

President Franklin D. Roosevelt, during signing of the G.I. Bill June 22, 1944

Guest Speakers

RITA COSBY



JOHN KONRAD



DAVE YOHO



The U.S. Merchant Marine Officers of AMO Thank and Salute
AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE VETERANS



PAUL DOELL
National President

MICHAEL F. FINNIGAN
National Executive Vice President



601 S. Federal Highway
Dania Beach, FL 33004

(800) 362-0513
www.amo-union.org

Founded by U.S. Merchant Marine Veterans of World War II



FULL SPEED AHEAD IN TAMPA!

We are pleased to welcome you to the 33rd National Convention of the American Merchant Marine Veterans at the luxurious Westshore Grand in Tampa. We have an exciting line-up of activities, speakers, and entertainment!

Top notch guest speakers on our Agenda include WWII Merchant Marine Veteran & world-class motivational speaker Dave Yoho; famed news reporter, best-selling author, & Veterans advocate Rita Cosby; and CEO/founder of *gCaptain*, the world's most popular maritime blog site, Capt. John Konrad.

We look forward to your participation in the business meetings as we work together to face the many organizational challenges that lie ahead. All AMMV members are invited to sit in on the Board of Directors meeting on March 21st.

History will come full circle for our WWII Merchant Mariners when they are reunited with a class of vessel upon which they served. On March 23rd, our group will visit the *SS American Victory*.

If you are a World War II Merchant Marine Veteran or Navy Armed Guard Veteran, I hope you have a wonderful experience reuniting with your "shipmates". Our other attendees – family members, friends, supporters, and younger mariners – are honored to be here with you. Together, we will celebrate the legacy of the United States Merchant Marine.

Thank you all for being a part of this 33rd AMMV convention!

Sincerely,

Your 2019 National Convention Committee



AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE VETERANS

National Officers

National President **Capt. Chris Edyvean** *Midwest Chapter*
P.O. Box 41 – Hurley, WI 54534-0041 – (715) 862-2531 – cjedyvean@hotmail.com

National Vice President ... **Christian Yuhas** *Golden Gate Chapter*
P.O. Box 867 – Isleton, CA 95641 – (707) 398-5244 – cgyuhas@gmail.com

National Secretary **Shirley Cauble** *Oregon Chapter*
2657 Greyfox Dr. – Sutherlin, OR 97479 – (541) 459-7982 – riverbank2@charter.net

National Treasurer **John Pitts** *Member-at-Large*
21118 Hawaiian Ave. – Lakewood, CA 90715 – (562) 716-2899 – ameucman@aol.com

Regional Vice Presidents

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Capt. Dru DiMattia (interim) *SW Florida Chapter*
(239) 243-3409 - drudimattia@gmail.com

Region TWO – AL, DE, GA, KY, MD, MS, NC, SC, TN VA, DC, WV

George Bruno *Vulcan Mariners Chapter*
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Region THREE - NJ, PA

Howard Pfeifer *Three Rivers Chapter*
2592 Cole Rd. - Wexford, PA 15090-7805 - (724) 935-6465 - howdypfeifer@yahoo.com

Region FOUR – CT, MA, ME, NH, NY, RI, VT

Michael Fiorenza *Member-at-Large*
234 N. Beech St. – Massapequa, NY 11756 – (516) 784-9516 – michael fio.gr@sunymaritime.edu

Region FIVE – IA, IL, IN, MI, MN, NE, ND, OH, SD, WI

Vacant

Region SIX – AR, AZ, KS, LA, MO, NM, OK, TX

Bob Ross *Member-at-Large*
111 Stroud St. - El Dorado, AR 71730-5353 - (870) 863-4738 - csknight@suddenlink.net

Region SEVEN – AK, CO, ID, MT, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY

Vacant

Region EIGHT – AUS, CA, HI

Larry Starn *North Bay Mariners Chapter*
13973 Gas Canyon Dr. - Nevada City, CA 95959-8802 - (530) 265-8340 - lstarn139@comcast.net

Appointed Officers

Judge Advocate **Capt. Joseph Byrne** *Member-at-Large*
joe@captainbyrnelaw.com

Chaplain **Bob Ross** *Member-at-Large*

Editor,

National Magazine **Sindy Raymond** *North Bay Mariners Chapter*
(707) 546-6349 – saaren@sonic.net

Historian **vacant**

Nat'l Public Relations **Sindy Raymond** *North Bay Mariners Chapter*

Nominating &

Credentials **Richard "Ben" Benjamin** *Member-at-Large*
(317) 902-1491 – hoosierben@gmail.com

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Sindy Raymond *North Bay Mariners Chapter*

Government Affairs **Michael Helbig (Co-Chair)** *Member-at-Large*
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Charles A. Mills (Co-Chair) *Lone Star Chapter*
(713) 436-1638 – mcamco@aol.com
Eugene Barner *Member-at-Large*
(913) 766-3105 – ammv43@kc.rr.com
Robert Weagant *Midwest Chapter*
weagant@sbcglobal.net
Sheila Sova *Member-at-Large*
(618) 659-3401 – shesova@aol.com
Laura Johnson Riddle *Member-at-Large*
AMMVlaura@gmail.com

Veterans Affairs **vacant**

Constitution & By-laws **vacant**

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Sindy Raymond *North Bay Mariners Chapter*
Lynn Kelly *Member-at-Large*

Internet &

Social Media **Capt. Chris Edyvean** *Midwest Chapter*

2019 National Convention Committee

Convention Chairman **Capt. Dru DiMattia** *SW Florida Chapter*
Registration Head **Kimberly King** *SW Florida Chapter*
Committee Member **Capt. Chris Edyvean** *Midwest Chapter*
Committee Member **Lynn Kelly** *Member-at-Large*
Commemorative
Magazine Sales **Sheila Sova** *Member-at-Large*
Commemorative
Magazine Design **Susan Alexander** *Member-at-Large*

PEACE AND WAR *PROCLAMATION*

WHEREAS, many thousands of veterans of the United States of America's armed forces have served this nation in times of peace and war, and in doing so have thereby assured the safety and prosperity of all her people, and as we celebrate our freedom, we should remember this was a gift of life given to each of us by the men and women who bravely served their country, and by those who gave their life in battle; and

WHEREAS, the United States Merchant Marine has played a critical role in every major American military conflict since the American Revolution (1775-1783), transporting large amounts of war material, supplies, equipment and troops, and during World War II, they were vital to the war effort, contributing to the Allied victory; and

WHEREAS, the United States Merchant Marine suffered great casualties during World War II with more than 8,650 of the 215,000 Mariners killed and 3.1 tons of merchant ships lost, and the sacrifices that were made ensured our liberty and the American way of life; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1984, the American Merchant Marine Veterans (AMMV) is a non-profit Veterans national organization that includes a Florida charter, and its mission is in educating people about the vital role in which the United States Merchant Marine has played in the history of our nation, and seeks recognition for the sacrifices and contributions made by the men and women who have served, and continue to serve in times of peace and war; and

WHEREAS, the AMMV is hosting its 33rd Annual Merchant Marine Veterans' National Convention and Reunion on March 21-24, 2019 at The Westshore Grand Hotel in Tampa, Florida, and the event features speakers, a dinner cruise, a special tour of the *SS American Victory* Ship, and keynote speaker Rita Cosby, Emmy Award Winner, Author, Television Host, News Reporter, and Veterans Advocate.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby recognize and commend all American Veterans, especially those from our community, and do hereby proclaim Friday, March 22, 2019 as

“AMERICAN MECHANIC MARINE VETERANS' DAY”

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all residents to join me in welcoming the members of the American Merchant Marine Veterans and to thank them for their service to the United States of America, and to pay tribute to those who have served and continue to serve our country in the name of freedom.

1775

Thank you
Dave Yoho



On behalf of the entire American Merchant Marine Veterans (AMMV) organization, we convey our most sincere thanks and appreciation for everything you have done to better this organization and to help fight for the recognition of your fellow WWII Merchant Marine Veterans!

THANK YOU, and HEAVE HO!

AMMV National Officers

Capt. Christopher J. Edyvean
AMMV National President

Christian Yuhas
AMMV Executive Vice President

John Pitts
AMMV National Treasurer

Shirley Cauble
AMMV National Secretary

A Special Thank You

A special thanks to all of the individuals, chapters, and outside organizations who purchased space in this book. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Speakers

DAVE YOHO, Dave Yoho Associates
10803 West Main Street, Fairfax, VA 22030

CAPT. JOHN KONRAD
Founder/CEO of *gCaptain* <https://gcaptain.com>

RITA COSBY
Author of “*Quiet Hero*”

Extra Special Thanks

Dave Yoho

American Maritime Officers
Paul Doell – AMO National President

Capt. Dru DiMattia – Convention Chair

2019 Convention Committee

Committee Chairman	Capt. Anthony “Dru” DiMattia, SW Florida Chapter
Registration Head	Kimberly King, SW Florida Chapter
Committee Member	Capt. Christopher Edyvean, Midwest Chapter
Committee Member	Lynn Kelly, Member-At-Large
Master of Ceremonies	John Pitts, Member-At-Large
Commemorative Magazine Sales	Sheila Sova, Member-At-Large
Commemorative Magazine Layout	Susan Alexander, Member-At-Large

Supporting Members

Kimberly Degrave, Dennis Kelly, Sindy Raymond, Laura Johnson Riddle



Capt. John Konrad is the founder & CEO of *gCaptain*, the world's most visited maritime news website, and author of the book *Fire on the Horizon: The Untold Story of the Gulf Oil Disaster*. John is a USCG licensed Master of Unlimited Tonnage. He has sailed a variety of ships from ports around the world and is a distinguished alumnus of SUNY Maritime College.



Dave Yoho presides over one of the oldest and most successful consulting groups representing small business in the U.S. – He sits on the board of public companies and has made over 5,000 speeches in all 50 states and in 22 foreign countries. Dave is a WWII Merchant Marine Veteran, having enlisted in the U.S. Maritime Service in mid-1944 – completed basic, or what was then called Boot Camp – at Sheepshead Bay. He was assigned to his first ship, a newly designed T-2 Tanker, which was destined to be sent to the South Pacific where he spent 13 months. Four days after World War II ended – he turned 17 years old.

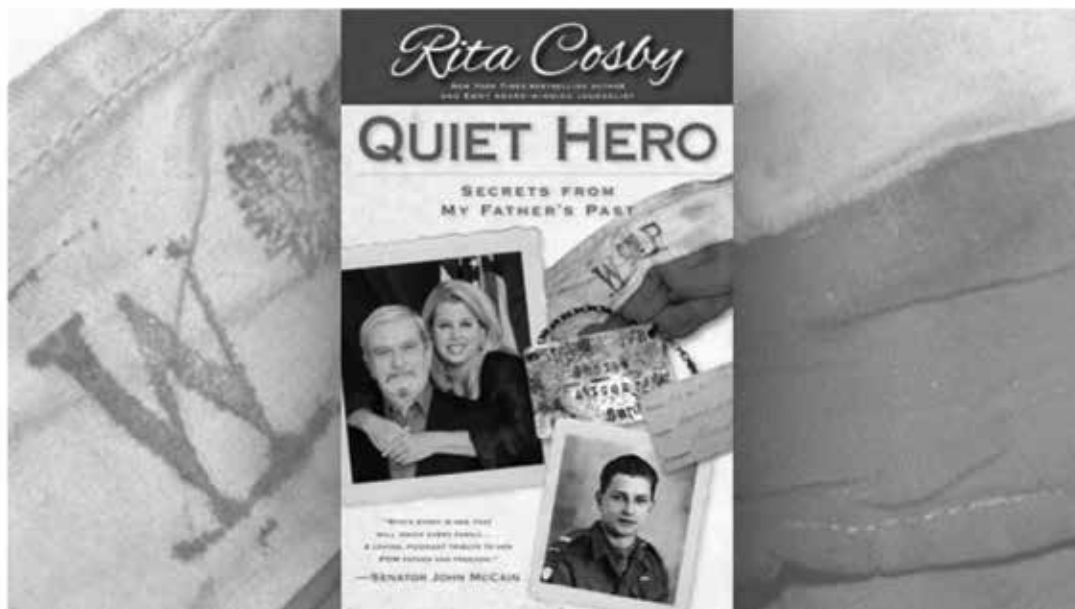


CONFIRMED for AMMV's 33rd National Convention in Tampa is 3-Time Emmy Award Winner, Best-Selling author, Famed TV Host, News Reporter, and Veterans advocate
RITA COSBY.

During her remarkable career, Rita Cosby has hosted primetime televised programs on FOX and MSNBC. She has interviewed dozens of world leaders and major celebrities.

Rita will be joining us for the Patriotic Dinner on March 22nd at the Westshore Grand. The next morning, we are honored to have her deliver our Keynote Speech following a breakfast at the Florida Aquarium.

She will be presenting on her best-selling book, *Quiet Hero*, which begins with the discovery of her own father's WWII service as an underage Polish resistance fighter, who became a POW, saved by US Troops. This story is an amazing slice of history and recommended reading for all who admire the Greatest Generation. A book signing will immediately follow her special presentation.



In loving memory of those who have crossed the final bar

(February 1st, 2018 through January 31st, 2019)

Howard Albert
David C. Bean
Harry "Hap" Bledsoe
Robert Brummer
William Cross
Jessie M. Deming
Wenzl Evans
Elias Flores
Laurence F. Fronk
Joe Giocomarra
Donald Heffern
William "Speed" Hinds
E. Arnold Johnston
William Gilbert Ledbetter
John Ludwick
Robert Day McAmis
Robert I. Olsen
Erik Oscarsen
Richard S. Parker
Harry J. Pienton
Bernard A. Quesada
Clint A. Quirk
Frederick M. Sargent, Jr.
Terrence J. "Terry" Shea
Dr. David J. Stevens
Leo C. Tullock
Edward Willis
Alfred A. Zipp

Richard Arcand
George Bermudez
Kenneth D. Blue
Capt. Elizabeth Clark
Frederick Henry Curtis
James E. Emel
Cornelius Farley
George Florio
Clyde H. Garren
Capt. Donald D. Gossett
Capt. Henry N. Helgesen
Orville L. "Bud" Holle
John Kappers
Jerome "Jerry" London
Harold E. "Duke" Marthaler
Richard W. Mell
Everett M. Olson
August "Ted" Pace
Richard "Dick" Parrish
Emery Postenrieder
Glen Quier
Barbara Reher
Bob Seabaugh
Henry A. Shozda
Jeremiah P. Taylor
Joe Valasquez
Iman C. Wintz

Milton Atkins
Calvin Berry
Nils Brekka
Philip J. Comba
Al D'Agostino
Charles Evanina
Helen Fernandez
John Fomasi
Jack A. Geissinger
George T. Hayden
E. William Henry
Walter M. Holm
Lawrence Landberg
Capt. Robert Loveall
Antonio Masi
Douglas "Art" Morrison
Gordon Olson
John Papamarcos
Edward H. Perkins
Albert D. Powers
Joe Quilici
Robert B. Ringer
Leo J. Selvey
Charlotte Starn
Mel Tublin
Herbert W. Wellman
John "Jack" Wolff

Navy League of the United States Tampa Bay Council

**In recognition of the
U.S. Merchant Marine and Navy Armed Guard
Veterans of World War II**



**Thank you for your service to the Nation.
Your contributions helped lead us to Victory!**

**We invite you to join the Tampa Bay Council at
www.tampabaynavyleague.org**

Citizens in Support of the Sea Services



**The Council of American Master Mariners, Inc.
Salutes and Commends
The American Merchant Marine Veterans
Association**

**You sailed in the ships and delivered much needed cargoes, supplies,
equipment, foodstuffs, arms and ammunition to our fighting men; and
despite the many dangers and personal hardships encountered,
you made voyage, after voyage, after voyage ...**

Ensuring a successful outcome for our military efforts!

For all that – and so much MORE – we are forever in your debt;

We offer a sincere *THANK YOU* to ALL at AMMV!

Best wishes for a successful 33rd National Convention in Tampa!

CAMM National Officers

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Captain Jeffery G. Cowan

National Secretary/Treasurer

Captain M.H.K. Aschemeyer

First Vice President

Captain Joseph J. Hartnett

Second Vice President

Captain Patrick A. Moloney

Regional Vice President, N. Atlantic

Captain Frank Zabrockey

Regional Vice President, Gulf Coast

Captain Augusta Roth

Regional Vice President, N. Pacific

Captain Calvin Hunziker

Regional Vice President, S. Pacific

Captain Klaus Niem

Immediate Past President

Captain Richard J. Klein

**The 21 unions and more than 5 million members
of the Maritime Trades Department, AFL-CIO
salute and thank the members of the**

American Merchant Marine Veterans



**Michael Sacco, President
Jerry Abell, Vice President
Daniel W. Duncan, Executive Secretary-Treasurer**

www.maritimetrades.org



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ATTORNEY AT LAW
944 SECOND AVENUE
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA 31901
COL., USA, ret.
Former Mayor Columbus, GA

OFFICE: (706) 317-3224 RESIDENCE: (706) 327-9415

Bobpoydasheff@bellsouth.net

Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America (AOS-USA)



AOS-USA Salutes the America Merchant Marine Veterans for their service to the maritime industry and to our country.
Thank you for your service in Peace and War!

We wish to thank AMMV for it's support of our efforts to Promote
Capt. Leonard LaRue of the *SS Meredith Victory* to the title of Servant of God!
Capt. LaRue was a Merchant Marine Veteran of WWII, who sailed as an officer on the *Mormac Mar.*
He took part in the Convoy, PQ 13, which sailed from Iceland to Murmansk. He returned back to Iceland
on QP 11. After retirement he became a Benedictine Monk, known as Brother Marinus.

For more information or to join the Brother Marinus Newsletter send an E-Mail to:
BrotherMarinusCause@gmail.com



Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America
The professional association of Catholic Mariners and Maritime Ministers.
Capt. George P. McShea, Jr - President
1500 Jefferson Drive
Port Arthur, TX 77642-0646

PH: 409-985-4545
www.aos-usa.org

FAX: 409-985-5945
aosusa@sbcglobal.net



Tampa Bay Chapter

***On behalf of the members of the Tampa Bay Chapter of
the Council of American Master Mariners, we wish the
AMMV organization a wonderful and memorable 33rd
National Convention!***

Chapter Officers:

President – Capt. Robert L. Holden

Vice President (Shoreside) – Captain Michael L. Michelson

Vice President (Seagoing) – Captain Scott Moser

Secretary/Treasurer – Captain Ronald J. Meiczinger

United Seamen's Service (USS)

Salutes

American Merchant Marine Veterans
2019 National Convention

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www.unitedseamensservice.org

The
Seafarers International Union
Atlantic, Gulf, Lakes and Inland Waters, AFL-CIO

Respectfully Salutes the
**American Merchant
Marine Veterans**

Best Wishes on Your National Convention

Thank You for Your Service to Our Country



MICHAEL SACCO
President

AUGUSTIN TELLEZ
Executive Vice President

DAVID HEINDEL
Secretary-Treasurer

GEORGE TRICKER
Vice President Contracts

DEAN CORGEY
Vice President Gulf Coast

HEADQUARTERS: 5201 Auth Way, Camp Springs, Maryland 20746
(301) 899-0675 ■ www.seafarers.org



The Board of Directors and friends of the
Veterans History Museum of the Carolinas
honor and salute our favorite Merchant Marine,

Harold Wellington.

Thank you for your service to our great Country!



CAMPANA MARINE SERVICE, INC.

Independent Marine / Cargo Surveyors

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Covington, Louisiana 70433

Telephone (985) 809-7555
Fax (504) 464-4672

Member: Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers

On behalf of our staff Campana Marine Service, Inc. we wish all mariners, past and present, the very best in 2019.

Through the hard work and dedication of the staff and officers of AMMV, hopefully the long overdue recognition of our WWII veteran mariners will be recognized in the new Congress.

We wish AMMV great Success with their annual convention in Tampa in March.

Our offices in New Orleans and Houston cover the Gulf Coast for all maritime surveying. We are the only surveying company in the US recognized by the ABS as Service Providers to them in Ultrasonic Tightness Testing of Closing Appliances.

God Bless the US Merchant Marine, her mariners, vessels and the AMMV.

Captain Ronald L. Campana
CEO/President
USMMA 1971

Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association
M.E.B.A. Tampa Union Hall



*In Peace & War, the Merchant Marine
Always Delivers the Goods*

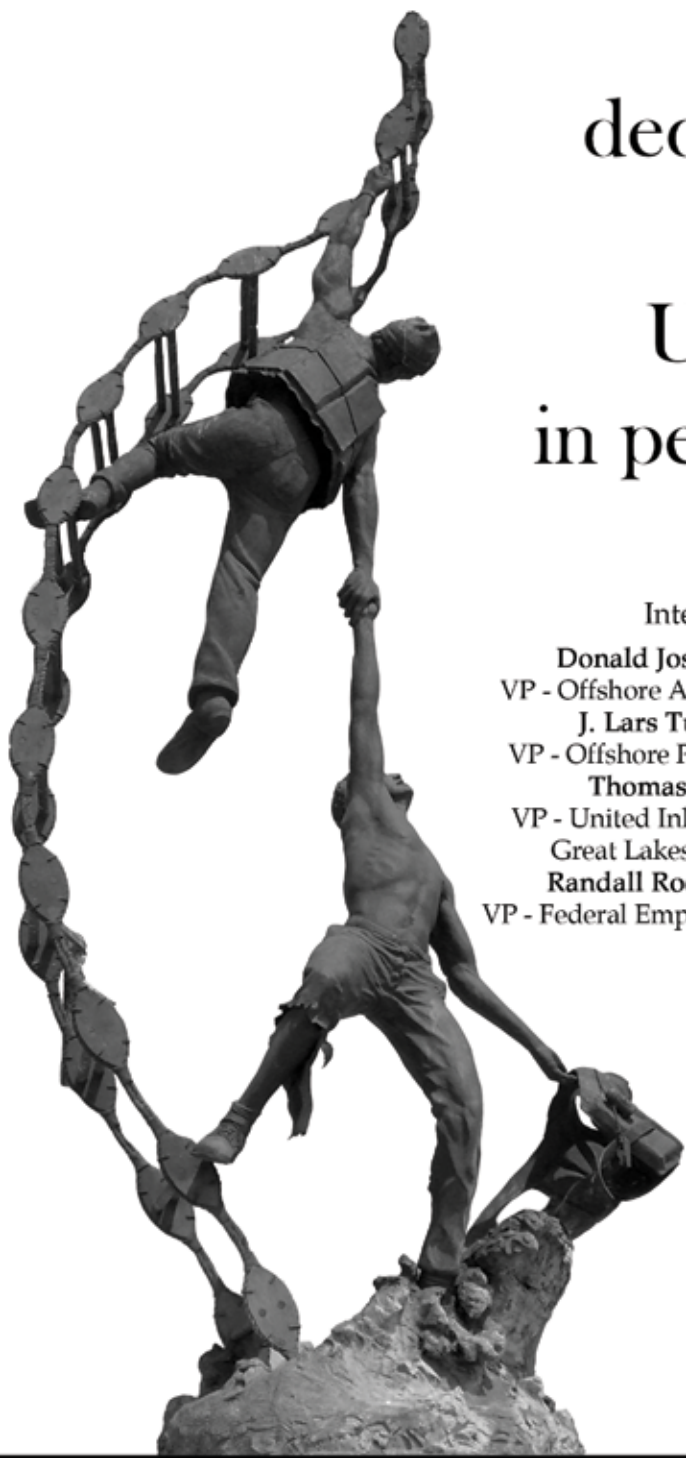


M.E.B.A. Salutes the AMMV

M.E.B.A. Tampa
4333 South 50th St.
Tampa, FL 33619
tampa@mebaunion.org
Phone: (813) 247-7223

Erin Bertram, Gulf Coast V.P.
Adam Smith, Branch Agent
Glenn Buettner, Dispatcher/Rep.

Masters, Mates & Pilots Salutes American Merchant Mariners for their dedicated service to the United States in peace and in war.



Donald J. Marcus
International President
Steven Werse
International Secretary-Treasurer

Donald Josberger
VP - Offshore Atlantic Ports
J. Lars Turner
VP - Offshore Pacific Ports
Thomas Bell
VP - United Inland Group
Great Lakes & Gulf
Randall Rockwood
VP - Federal Employees Group

Klaus Luhta
VP - Offshore Gulf Ports
& Government Affairs
Stephen Doherty
VP - Atlantic Maritime Group
Timothy Saffle
VP - United Inland Group
Pacific Maritime Region
George Quick
VP - Pilot Group



700 Maritime Boulevard, Suite B, Linthicum Heights, MD 21090
410-850-8700 www.bridgedeck.org



THE TRUSTEES OF THE SAILORS' SNUG HARBOR acknowledges the U.S. Merchant Mariners and Navy Armed Veterans of WWII for their service and sacrifice.

SSH, one of the oldest secular charities in the country, was founded through the 1801 Will of Captain Robert Richard Randall. **Our mission is to aid retired merchant mariners around the country in need of assistance.** We assist mariners in their home communities who demonstrate a financial need and meet other eligibility requirements.

BRING THE MESSAGE BACK TO YOUR HOME COMMUNITY

If you know of a retired mariner in need of assistance, please visit our web site or call our Mariner Counselor at 1-888-257-5456.

17 Battery Place, Suite 230 New York, New York 10004
Tel: 646-465-8585 Toll Free: 1-888-257-5456 Fax: 212-513-0243
Website: www.thesailorssnugharbor.org
Email: info@thesailorssnugharbor.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/sailorssnugharbor/



AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE VETERANS



DENNIS A. ROLAND CHAPTER (N.J.)

P.O. BOX 306

MIDLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY 07432



Thanksgiving Luncheon - 2018 (with members donning their Seamen's Church "Christmas at Sea" Sweaters)



Christmas & Holiday Season Party - 2018

The Dennis A. Roland Chapter

Wishes to acknowledge and thank the National & Regional Officers again for all their hard work and dedicated service

Smooth sailing & fair winds on this 33rd Convention

President

Dennis Ng

Vice-President

Ray Mombelardi

Secretary

Tony Petrovich

Treasurer

Bill Stiles

The Kings Point Club Of Washington DC



**Salutes the Merchant Marine Veterans of World War II
and honors those who have and continue to serve
"In Peace and War" in our U.S. Merchant Marine**



Maritime Day 2018 – Kings Point Club of Washington DC lunch reception with AMMV "Storm the Hill" crew



The International Propeller Club
of the United States
PORT OF TAMPA, INC.



The Propeller Club, Port of Tampa welcomes the AMMV annual reunion to Tampa and expresses our gratitude and appreciation to the U.S. Merchant Marine and Navy Armed Guard Veterans of WWII in their service to our country.

PROPELLER CLUB
PORT OF TAMPA

The Propeller Club, Port of Tampa, Inc. is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to the success and welfare of the Ports of Tampa Bay, their maritime communities, and their customers, for the benefit of the Tampa Bay community.

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Like us on Facebook - [Facebook.com/PropellerClubTampa](https://www.facebook.com/PropellerClubTampa)

-AMMV Midwest Chapter- Sends **GREETINGS**

To the
**33rd Convention of
American Merchant Marine Veterans
1941-United States Merchant Marine -1945**

Dedicated to the memory of the 5,652 brave merchant seaman who unselfishly gave their lives aboard 735 merchant ships that were sunk by the enemy during World War II. Also to the 1,810 U.S. Navy Armed Guard who lost their lives in defending the merchant ships against the enemy during WWII.

United States Merchant Marine

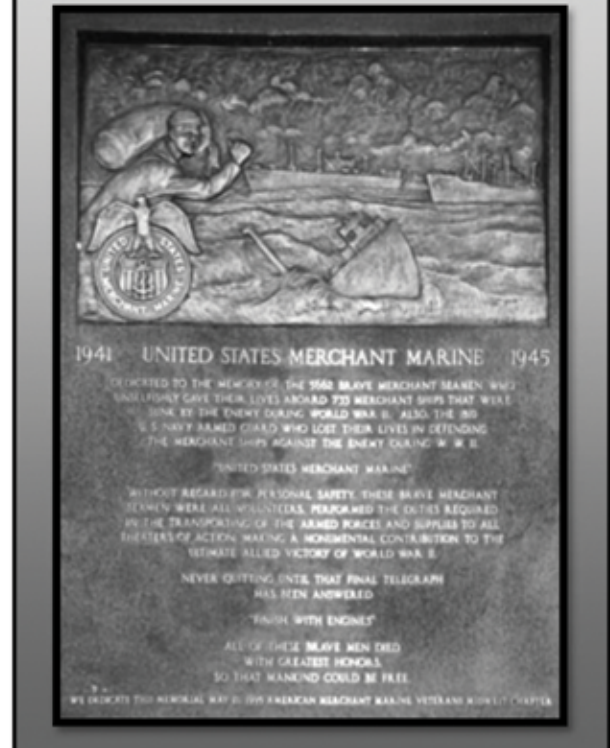
Without regard for personal safety, these brave merchant seamen were all volunteers; preformed the duties required in the transporting of the Armed Forces and supplies to all theaters of action making a monumental contribution to the ultimate allied victory of World War II.

Never quitting until that final telegraph had been answered:

"Finish with engines"

**We dedicated this memorial May 31st, 1995
American Merchant Marine Veterans
Midwest Chapter**

The Midwest Chapter placed this plaque at the Navy Pier in Chicago in May 1995. It has a relief depicting a sailor and two ships, one of which is sinking.





In remembrance of our SWFLA AMMV Chapter
members, Honoring our WWII Merchant Marine
Veterans and Navy Armed Guard.

Fight the Good Fight!

Fair Winds and Following Seas to all, at our 33rd Annual
Convention in Tampa!



STORM THE HILL 2015 - 2018

2015 Storm the Hill

L to R: Charles Mills, Clint Quirk, Morris Harvey, Eugene Barner, w/ Rep. Susan Brooks, Gabe Frank



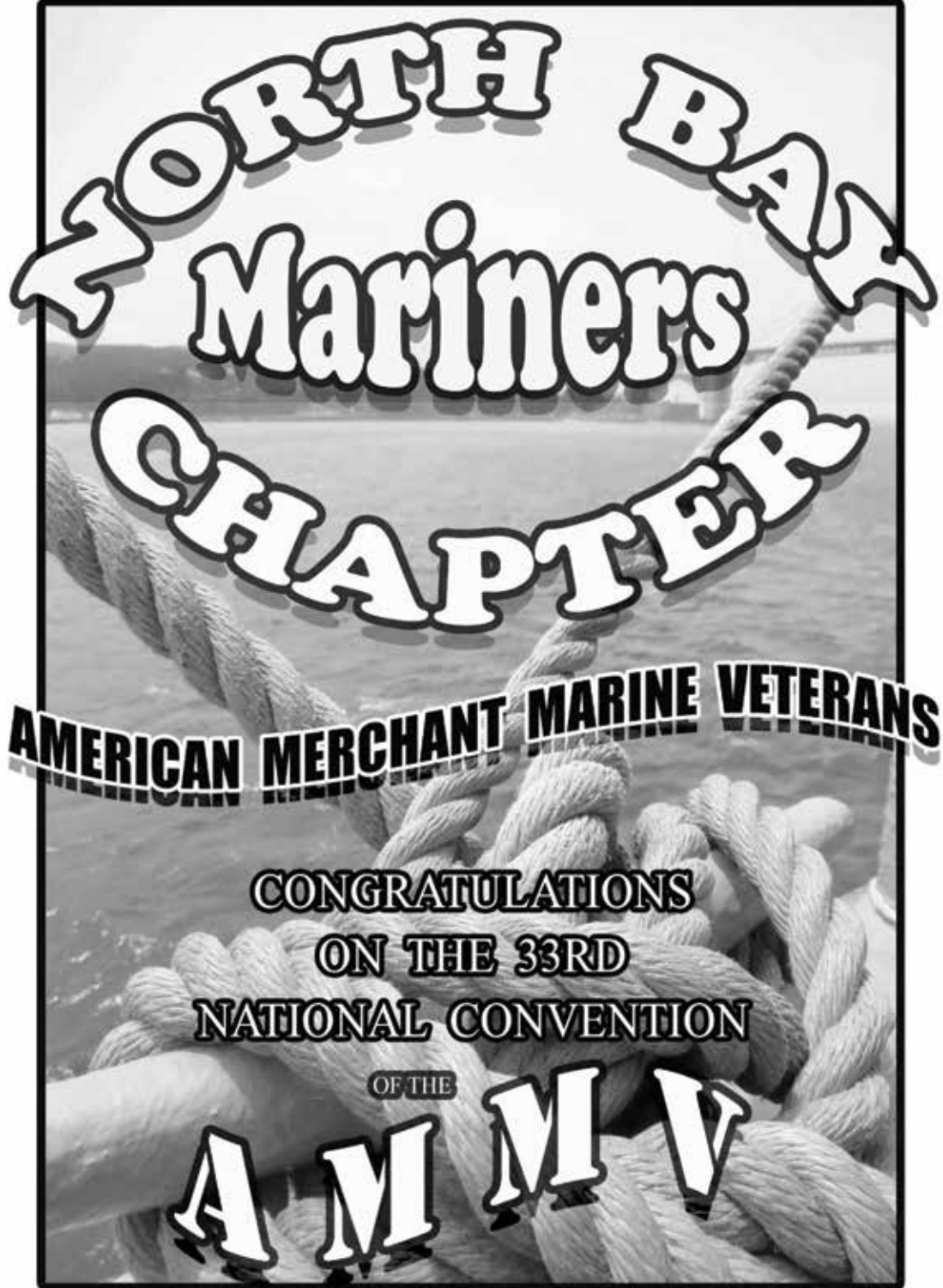
2017 Storm the Hill

L to R: (standing) Morris Harvey, Robert Weagant, w/ Rep. Elizabeth Esty, (sitting) Charles Mills, Eugene Barner, Laura Johnson Riddle, Sheila Sova

2018 Storm the Hill

L to R: Sheila Sova, Robert Weagant, w/ Rep. John Garamendi, Charles Mills, Laura Johnson Riddle, Eugene Barner





**GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE & SAN FRANCISCO BAY BRIDGE,
SAN FRANCISCO, CA
TOWER BRIDGE, SACRAMENTO, CA**



CONGRATULATIONS

TO

**ALL AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE VETERANS AND NATIONAL OFFICERS
AND**

**BEST WISHES TO THE CONVENTION COMMITTEE FOR A VERY
SUCCESSFUL AND PRODUCTIVE**

33rd Annual National Convention

TAMPA, FLORIDA - MARCH 20TH - MARCH 24TH, 2019

FROM

**THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE GOLDEN GATE CHAPTER
AND FORMER SACRAMENTO VALLEY CHAPTER
SAN FRANCISCO, CA**

General Officers

Capt. K.C. O'Brien, Pres., CEO

Christian Yuhas, Exec. V.P.

Frank Mendez, Fin. Secretary-Treasurer

President Emeritus, Harold J. Wagner

Chaplain, Capt. K.C. O'Brien

West Region V.P. - Larry Starn

In Memory of John T. 'Jack' Schmidt



FOUNDER AND PAST PRESIDENT

JOHN T. SCHMIDT

SOUTH CAROLINA

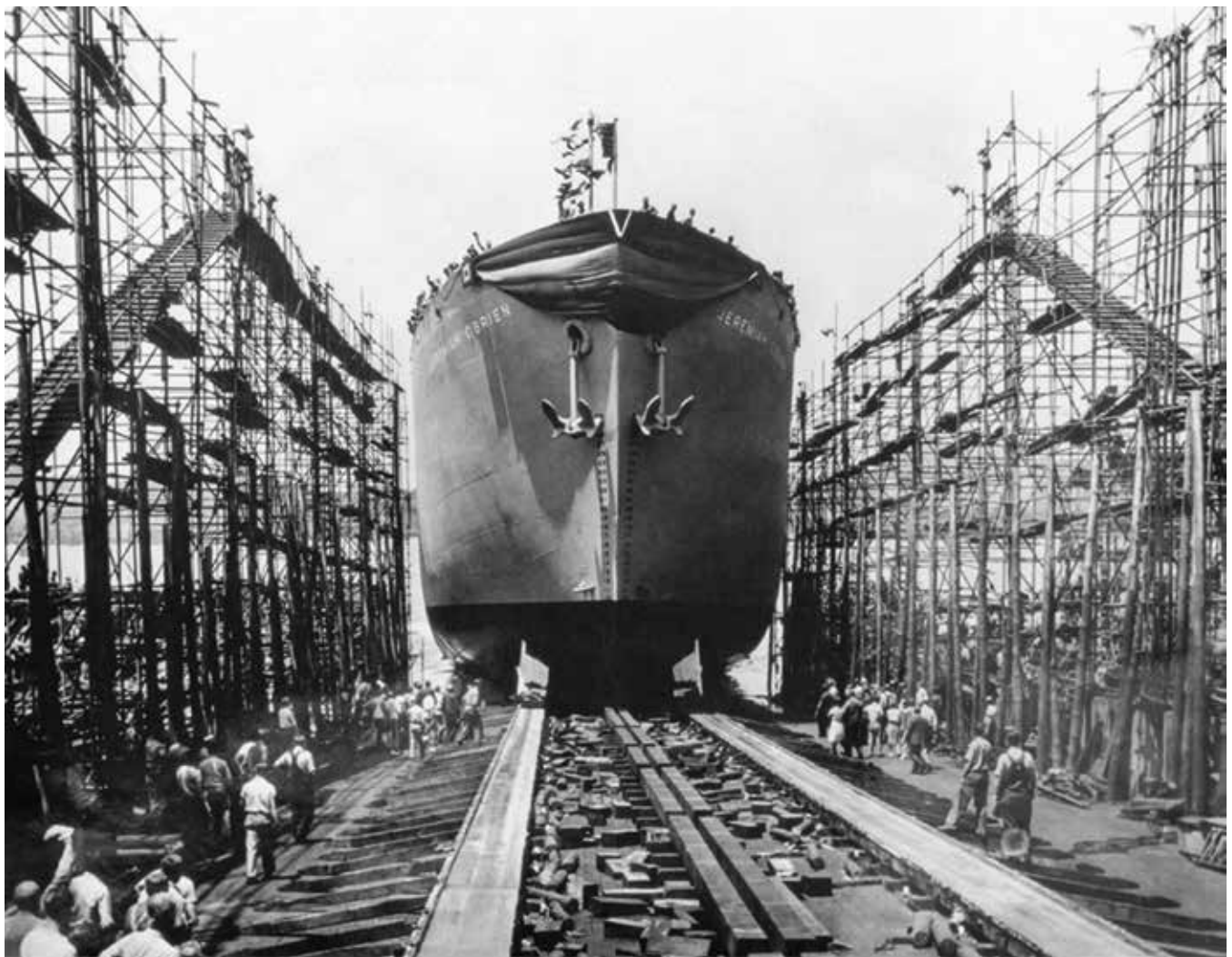
PALMETTO MARINERS

CHAPTER



**THE SCHMIDT FAMILY THANKS ALL
AMMV VETERANS! WE WISH YOU A
SUCCESSFUL ANNUAL CONVENTION.**





THANK YOU to the Merchant Marine and Navy Armed Guard veterans of World War II, and to the U.S. Merchant Mariners of all eras.

VISIT US AT **PIER 45, SAN FRANCISCO**, OR ONLINE AT **SSJEREMIAHOBRIEN.ORG**

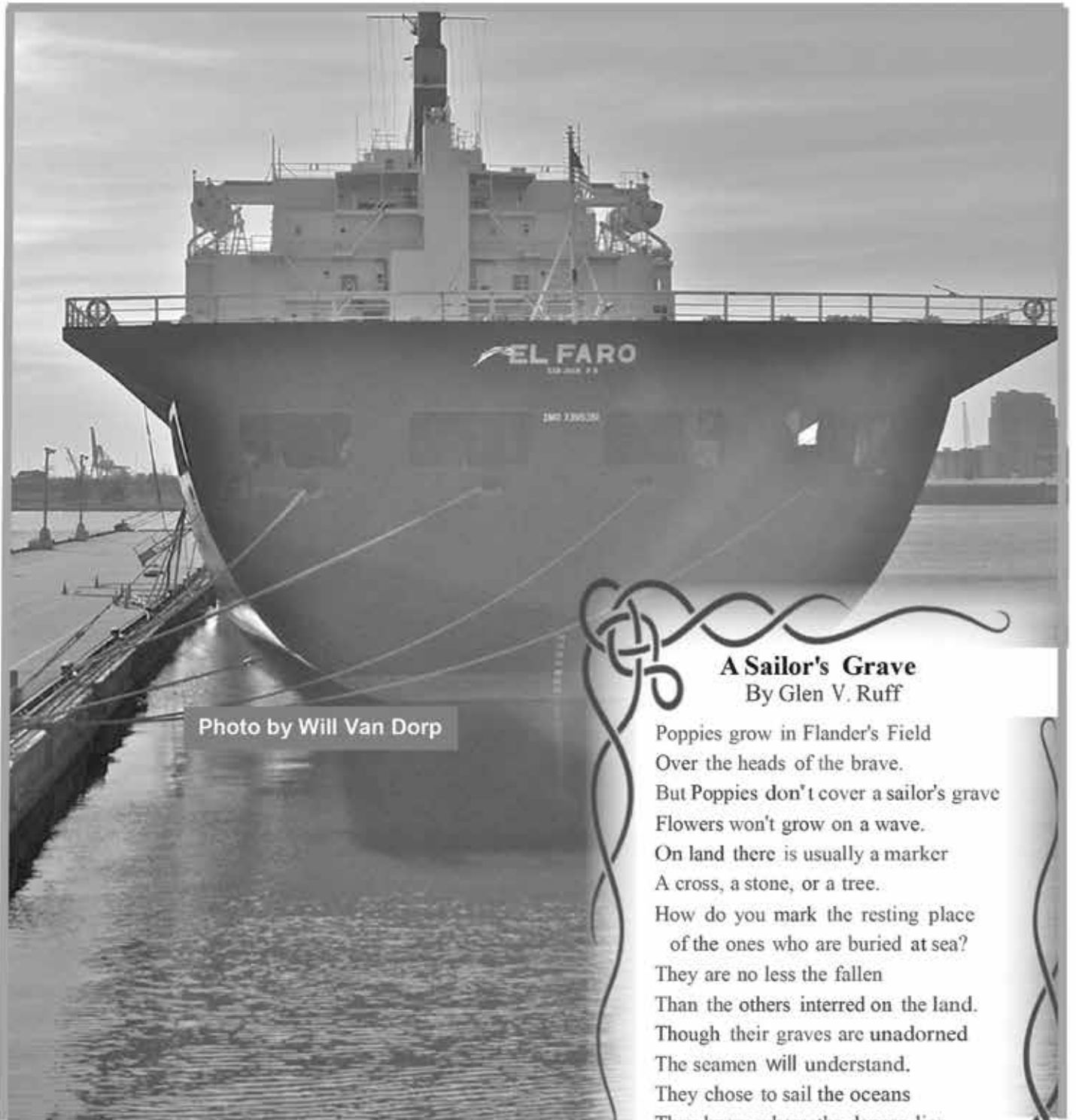


Photo by Will Van Dorp

SS El Faro was a United States-flagged cargo ship crewed by U.S. merchant mariners. She departed Jacksonville, FL, September 29, 2015, bound for Puerto Rico. She was lost at sea with all hands on October 1, after losing propulsion near the eyewall of Hurricane Joaquin.

A Sailor's Grave

By Glen V. Ruff

Poppies grow in Flander's Field
Over the heads of the brave.
But Poppies don't cover a sailor's grave
Flowers won't grow on a wave.
On land there is usually a marker
A cross, a stone, or a tree.
How do you mark the resting place
of the ones who are buried at sea?
They are no less the fallen
Than the others interred on the land.
Though their graves are unadorned
The seamen will understand.
They chose to sail the oceans
They knew where the danger lies
And if tragedy ever happens
The sea claims the sailor who dies.

American Maritime Congress

WWW.AMERICANMARITIME.ORG



In support of the Philippine Mindoro Operation (1944), the SS Francisco Morazan successfully delivered 10,000 tons of ammunition to U.S. troops under heavy Japanese fire, but the SS John Burke lost all men on board. Through both victory and tragedy, U.S. mariners served valiantly. Their contribution and sacrifice were indispensable in America's war in the Pacific and Allied Victory in the Second World War.

"THEY HAVE CONTRIBUTED TREMENDOUSLY TO OUR SUCCESS. I HOLD NO BRANCH IN HIGHER ESTEEM THAN THE MERCHANT MARINE

*-General Douglas MacArthur
October 14, 1945*



**TO OUR AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE VETERANS,
WE AT AMC THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE.**

JAMES CAPONITI
President

RILLA GAITHER
Senior Advisor

FAIR KIM
Policy Director

Thank you Captain Edyvean
for your dedication and
leadership!
- Midwest Chapter -



Captain Christopher J. Edyvean
AMMV National President
(2015-2019)

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**Congratulations on your 32nd National Covention
and thank you for all you do!**



From

**American Merchant Marine
Veterans Memorial
Committee, Inc.**



San Pedro, CA

Harry "Hap" Bledsoe

July 21, 1923 - October 11, 2018

To my Loving Husband, May the hinges of friendship never rust
nor the wings of Love never lose a feather.

Harry "Hap" Bledsoe

Merchant Marine 1942-1946



Forgotten Heroes by Milton E. Kriebes

To those who fought and bled and died,
That God's gift of freedom might always abide!
With weapons, flags and spirit bold,
Did wars on foreign shores unfold.

The tanks and guns with soldiers brave
Were carried over the restless wave.
The seas above and the subs below,
With the Merchant Marine they had to go.

It's strange some folks will ask today,
What part in the war did the Merchant Marine play?
Can it be as history counts the cost,
The page with the answer seems to be lost.

With the battles over and victory won,
The troops came home where they started from.
They marched in parades with much adulation,
Along with the thanks from a grateful nation.

I see a man watching the parade passing by,
It seems that I see a tear in his eye.
Did he not serve for the land that he loved,
In the Merchant Marine below decks or above?

He remembers the heat and the sweat down below,
The fear of torpedoes; what a way to go.
The men on the bridge in the wild North Atlantic,
In danger of ice or a submarine's antics.

So he stands there alone as the band plays a tune,
Reflecting how his part was forgotten too soon.
Take heart my brave shipmate if no glory you share,
In the logbook of Heaven you'll find it all there.

Your watch here on earth is not really over,
As long as you tread the topside of clover,
So lift your head high as old Glory you see.
Thank God that you served for the land of the free.



I honor *You* and all our *Military Veterans* with deep gratitude
and appreciation for keeping our land Safe and Free.

Your *Spirit* lives forever

Cynthia Bledsoe

Ahoy & Congratulations!

Best Wishes to the A.M.M.V. & your 33rd Annual National Convention!



Founded in 1883, the International Ship Masters Association is North America's largest fraternal organization of vessel Captains, Officers and Crewmen. Consisting of U.S. and Canadian Great Lake's



mariners, local lodges are in most of the primary ports. We are proud to support the American Merchant Marine Veterans and that Twin Ports Lodge 12 of Duluth, MN & Superior, WI, is A.M.M.V. President Capt. Chris Edyvean's home lodge.



I.S.M.A. members operate the remarkable 1,000 foot giants, down to the hundreds of smaller tugs, pilot boats and research vessels working on the Great Lakes. We work toward a safer and more efficient St. Lawrence Seaway system, by advocating for the Great Lakes American and Canadian merchant mariner. We make sure this voice is heard on matters of regulation and law, as well as maritime safety and working condition's issues. Through scholarships, mentoring and apprenticeships, we assist the currently working mariner, as well as encouraging newcomers to join the proud tradition of being a Merchant Mariner.

PORT OF DULUTH-SUPERIOR ✦ TWIN PORTS LODGE 12

A Rendezvous with Destiny

Many of our brave and unheralded warriors are now fading into history, forgotten by the very people for which they served and died. What a different world it would be if not for their sacrifices. The tracks and wakes they left in history shall be epitaph. You are not the first and you certainly will not be the last, *but you are among the finest...*



Dedicated to our warriors who have crossed the final bar:

On a gentle breeze may they travel with a trim sail and a true helm, answering to a gentle hand. Leaving the raging waters far astern, may they sail on tranquil seas with a full moon rising and the hypnotic sounds of their beloved sea.

They will live forever in our hearts.

Eternal Father, please make a warm place in your house for these gallant warriors. Let they eternal light shine upon them.

American Merchant Marine Veterans "High Rollers" Chapter, Las Vegas, Nevada

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Douglass Pushard

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Joan Hanson

Mitzie Tracy

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John T. Schmidt Chapter Palmetto Mariners South Carolina

The Myrtle Beach, South Carolina “Palmetto Mariners” Chapter congratulates the AMMV on the occasion of the 33rd National Convention!

We are committed to supporting “*just compensation*” for the long-delayed veterans status for the heroic efforts of the Merchant Mariners who provided the materials to support United States fighting forces in WWII and maintaining a strong source of commercial seamen during peace time.

For more information about our Chapter,
please visit our website at:

www.usmerchantmarinesc.com

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Mesothelioma and Asbestos Lawsuits

What is Asbestos?

Asbestos is a naturally-occurring, fibrous mineral once used in many products due to its strength and ability to resist heat, as well as insulate. Asbestos was used for decades in textile products, automotive parts, home and commercial buildings, naval ships, and more. If asbestos is disturbed, the fibers become airborne resulting in inhalation or ingestion.

What is Mesothelioma?

Mesothelioma is an aggressive, incurable form of cancer that is only caused by asbestos. The risk of developing mesothelioma from asbestos exposure is dose dependent-the greater the asbestos exposures, the greater the risk.

Our Asbestos Lawyers and Your Legal Rights

If you or a loved one was recently diagnosed with an asbestos-related disease, we may be able to pursue a case on your behalf. Our law firm has over 30 years of experience and no other office can match our legal team's ability to take a case through trial and receive the same results.



**Brayton Purcell LLP thanks and salutes
American Merchant Marine Veterans**
for their continuing efforts
on behalf of those who have served.
Best wishes for a successful convention!

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Ahoy!

To all, we wish a very successful
AMMV 33rd Convention & Reunion!
Lone Star Chapter, Houston TX
“THE PRIDE OF THE WEST GULF”



Pictured from Left to Right:

Vance W. Murphy, George Offenhauser, Vladmir Bachleda,
Captain Theron L. Varvil, Charles A. Mills Secretary/Treasurer,
Guadalupe R. Perez, Santos Flores (CEO)



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THE MERCHANT SEAMAN

I WAS THAT WHICH OTHERS DID NOT

WANT TO BE

**I WENT WHERE OTHERS FEARED TO GO
AND DID WHAT OTHERS FAILED TO DO.**

**I HAVE SEEN THE FACE OF TERROR,
FELT THE STINGING COLD OF FEAR.
I HAVE CRIED, PAINED, AND HOPED..
BUT MOST OF ALL**

**I HAVE LIVED TIMES OTHERS WOULD
SAY
WERE BEST FORGOTTEN.**

**AT LEAST SOMEDAY I WILL BE ABLE TO
SAY**

**THAT I WAS PROUD OF WHAT I WAS
...A SEAMAN**

In Remembrance of an American Seaman-Patriot



ELLIS EDWARD ("Slim") ROSE

19 June 1921—3 February 2003

1942—1945 Carpenter's Mate 3d class, U. S. Naval Reserve

1946—1948 Able-Bodied Seaman, merchant marine (S.U.P.)

1950—1958 A.B.-Carpenter, Military Sea Transportation Service

Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association

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Honoring our Merchant Mariners Past & Present



M.E.B.A. is the nation's oldest maritime labor union, established in 1875. We represent licensed engine and deck officers aboard seagoing vessels, ferries and government-contracted ships. Our members also serve on tugs and barges, research vessels and in various capacities in the shoreside industries. In wartime, our members have sailed in virtually unarmed merchant ships delivering critical defense cargo despite attacks from enemy aircraft, submarines and warships.

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