

AMERICAN

MERCHANT MARINE

VETERANS

NEWS MAGAZINE

Special Convention Edition

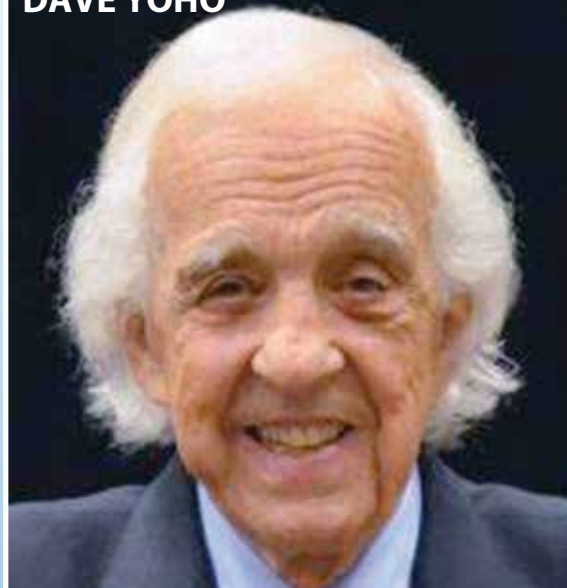
Open for Tours

JOHN W BROWN

2020: Year of the  
Merchant Mariners  
of WWII  
Congressional  
Gold Medal

Guest Speakers

DAVE YOHO



ADMIRAL MARK H. BUZBY



WILLIAM GEROUX



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](http://www.amo-union.org)

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





**Best wishes for a successful 34th AMMV Convention and attaining recognition for the service & sacrifice of US Merchant Marine Veterans through the Congressional Gold Medal!**

## ***A Special Thank You***

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

### **Speakers & Presenters**

**DAVE YOHO – Dave Yoho Associates**

**REP. JOHN GARAMENDI – California's 3<sup>rd</sup> District**

**ADMIRAL MARK H. BUZBY - MARAD**

**WILLIAM GEROUX – Author**

**DR. SALVATORE MERCOGLIANO – Maritime Historian**

**RDML TIMOTHY GULLAUDET, Ph.D., USN Retired  
Asst. Secretary of Commerce, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration**

**CAPT. BRIAN HOPE – Maritime Artist  
Association of Maryland Pilots, Retired**

### **Extra special thanks to:**

**DAVE YOHO**

**RITA COSBY**

**DAVID ALBERG – NOAA Sanctuary Superintendent**

**SHEILA SOVA (AMMV Special Projects & Veterans Outreach)**

\*\*\*\*\*

### **2020 Convention Committee**

**Committee Chairman  
Finance & Registration  
Commemorative Magazine Sales  
Committee Member  
Nominating & Credentials Officer  
Chaplain**

**John Pitts  
Lynn Kelly  
Capt. Chris Edyvean  
Sheila Sova  
Richard "Ben" Benjamin  
Bob Ross**

**Supporting Members:** Sandi Barth, Cynthia Bledsoe, Ann Cornwall, Capt. Dru DiMattia, Dennis Kelly, Shirley Knight, Cynthia Komlos, Sindy Raymond, Laura Johnson Riddle, Stephen & Sandra Snyder

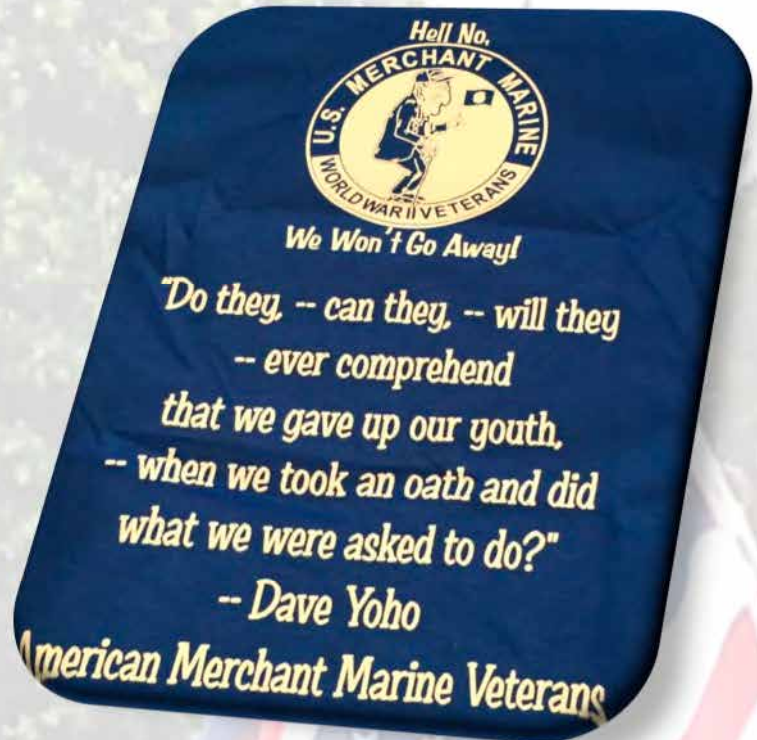


Thank you

**DAVE YOHO**

for everything you have  
done for the AMMV  
organization and your  
fellow WWII Merchant  
Marine Veterans.

**HEAVE HO!**



Dave Yoho is presented the United States Flag at the D-Day Memorial, June 2019

AMMV National Office

John Pitts  
Dennis Kelly  
Lynn Kelly

National President  
National Treasurer  
National Office Administrator

Capt. Dru DiMattia  
Stanley Blumenthal  
Capt. Chris Edyvean

Executive Vice President  
National Secretary  
Past National President



## RDML Timothy Gallaudet, Ph.D., USN Ret.

*Asst. Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and  
Atmosphere and Deputy NOAA Administrator*

Timothy Gallaudet, Ph.D., was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on October 5, 2017, as the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere for the Department of Commerce in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Dr. Gallaudet was previously a rear admiral in the U.S. Navy, where his most recent assignment was Oceanographer of the Navy and Commander of the Navy Meteorology and Oceanography Command.

During his 32 years of military service, Dr. Gallaudet has had experience in weather and ocean forecasting, hydrographic surveying, developing policy and plans to counter illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, and assessing the national security impacts of climate change. He has led teams of Navy sailors and civilians performing such diverse functions as overseeing aircraft carrier combat operations, planning and conducting humanitarian assistance and disaster response efforts, assisting Navy SEAL Teams during high visibility counter-terrorism operations, and developing the Navy's annual \$52 billion information technology, cyber security and intelligence budget.

Dr. Gallaudet holds a bachelor's degree from the U.S. Naval Academy and master's and doctoral degrees from Scripps Institution of Oceanography, all in oceanography.

## William Geroux - Author

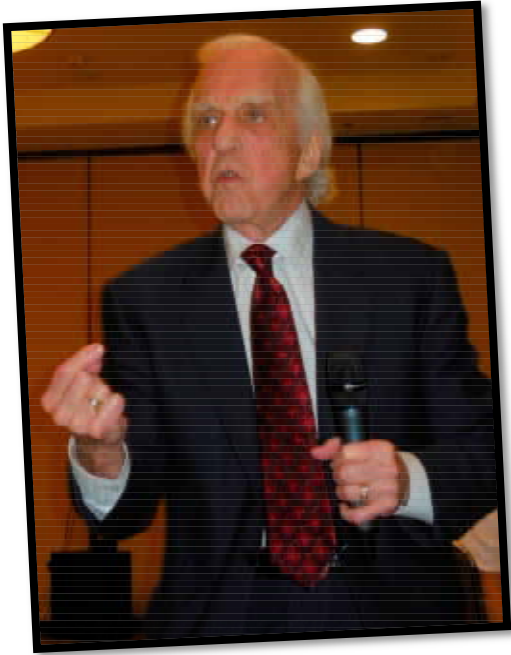
William Geroux appears at the AMMV 2020 National Convention in support of his second book about the WWII Merchant Marine, *The Ghost Ships of Archangel: The Arctic Voyage that Defied the Nazis*, which focuses on the "Murmansk Run" and the story of the fatal PQ-17 convoy. He previously appeared at the 2017 AMMV Convention to promote his first book, *The Mathews Men: Seven Brothers and the War Against Hitler's U-boats*.

Geroux spent 30 years as a newspaper reporter, much of it covering Hampton Roads for the Richmond Times-Dispatch, writing about numerous topics. He won numerous awards for breaking news coverage, feature writing, and investigative journalism. Later, he worked as a writer for Maersk Line Limited, a Norfolk-based subsidiary of one of the world's largest shipping lines. He lives in Virginia Beach, VA.





## Dave Yoho – WWII Merchant Marine Veteran & Motivational Speaker



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.



## Dr. Salvatore Mercogliano – Maritime Historian



Salvatore R. Mercogliano has been a professor of History at Campbell University in Bales Creek, North Carolina, since 2010. He teaches courses in Western civilization, U. S. history, American military experience, the Civil War, and world maritime history. He was named Professor of the Year in 2015 and 2011 and honored by his colleagues with the D.P. Russ Jr. and Walter S. Jones Sr. Alumni Award for Teaching Excellence. He has also taught at Methodist University, East Carolina University, Central Carolina Community College, the U. S. Military Academy, the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, and the U. S. Merchant Marine Academy.

Dr. Mercogliano has published numerous articles and given presentations on a variety of maritime related topics, with a focus on the role of the merchant marine in national defense. His latest book is *Fourth Line of Defense: Sealift and Maritime Logistics in the Vietnam War*, an excerpt of which is featured elsewhere in this magazine. He holds degrees from the State University of New York, Maritime College

(BS in Marine Transportation), East Carolina University (MA in Maritime History and National Archeology) and the University of Alabama (PhD in Military and Naval History), along with his U. S. Merchant Marine deck license. Dr. Mercogliano lives in Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina, with his wife Kathy and son Christopher.

# In Loving Memory

*of those who have crossed the final bar*

*(February 1st, 2019 through January 31st, 2020)*



Muriel "Mickey" Anderson  
Karl Baumwell  
Harry Bruce Bradley  
Isaac F. Chapman  
Herbert Leon Comer  
Walter M. Cronin, Sr.  
Kenneth Duncan  
Gabe Frank  
Morris Harvey  
Capt. Henry Joffray  
Wiley Benjamin Jones  
Lowell H. Lowe  
Capt. Arthur R. Moore  
Douglass Pushard  
Capt. Charles M. Renick  
Dale Shelton  
Marcus Lucas Snell  
Joseph Steven Soltis  
Donald Tomlin  
Dominico "D.J." Vigna

Frank E. Baker, Jr.  
Harold Behmlander  
Walter Broll  
Capt. Peter Chelemedos  
Grady Wilson Cooper  
A.J. "Dan" Danna  
Maurice F. "Moose" Dunne, Jr.  
Patrick Anthony Geiselman  
Robert Hudson  
Robert L. "Bob" Johnson  
Curtis Leatherwood  
Maurice L. "Mac" McCarty  
Norris S. Nahman, PhD  
William J. Reddy  
Charles M. Reynolds, Sr.  
Roger C. Siegman  
Richard F. Smith  
William Steinbaugh  
Charles C. Trombley  
Herbert Weinstein

Ben Balsamo  
Douglas J. Borges  
Alfred L. Bush  
James Coley  
Edward P. Craig  
Irving R. Dietscher  
Donald Fleming  
Jack Grothe  
Edward Jacobson  
Gurden M. Johnson  
Warren G. Leback  
Frederick J. Miller  
Richard C. Oden, Sr.  
Carl M. Reed  
Melvin B. Rogow  
Charles A. Single  
Francis J. Smouse  
Charles E. Thompson  
Theron Leon Varvil  
Raymond Westburg



*Remembering AMMV President Emeritus*

# MORRIS HARVEY

*AMMV NATIONAL PRESIDENT 2011-2015*



Also served as AMMV Executive Vice President; Regional Vice President; Ocala Chapter President; Co-Chair Government Affairs Committee; and was the Storm the Hill leader 2015 & 2017. Morris oversaw creation of the *ammv.us* website.

WWII-era vessel service: *William Paca, Warren P. Marks, Nicholas D. Labadie, William W. Seaton, Alcoa Ranger, Alcoa Partner, and Alcoa Pennant.*





## Come Sail aboard the Liberty Ship JOHN W. BROWN



The S.S. JOHN W. BROWN is one of the last operating survivors from the great fleet of over 2,700 war-built Liberty Ships and the last Operational Troopship of World War II. The JOHN W. BROWN is fully restored and maintained as close as possible to her World War II configuration. Visitors must be able to walk up steps to board the ship.

### 2020 Cruises on the Chesapeake Bay

May 30 "Dress for Victory"

August 8 "Action in the Air"

September 19 "Know the Port of Baltimore"

This exciting 6 hour day cruise includes music of the 40's, period entertainment and flybys (conditions permitting) of vintage wartime aircraft with the Armed Guard manning the guns. Tour museum spaces, crew quarters, bridge and much more. View the magnificent 140-ton **triple-expansion steam engine** as it powers the ship through the water. Lunch, beverages and snacks included.

Online ordering & more information at [www.ssjohnwbrown.org/living-history-cruise/](http://www.ssjohnwbrown.org/living-history-cruise/)

For questions, email us at [john.w.brown@usa.net](mailto:john.w.brown@usa.net) or call 410-558-0164

Last day to order tickets is 14 days before the cruise.

Conditions and penalties apply to cancellations.



## Keep Her Sailing!

How can you help keep her sailing?

Become a Member ...Volunteer, if you can...Become a Ship's Sponsor  
Make a donation... Buy something from the Ship's Store... Every little bit helps.



More information on our website – [www.ssjohnwbrown.org](http://www.ssjohnwbrown.org)

Project Liberty Ship, PO BOX 25846, Baltimore, Maryland 21224



Project Liberty Ship is a Baltimore based, all volunteer, nonprofit organization.





# *THE KINGS POINT CLASS OF 1971*



*IS HONORED TO SALUTE THE  
MERCHANT MARINERS OF  
WORLD WAR II UPON RECEIVING  
THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD  
MEDAL*





AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE VETERANS



DENNIS A. ROLAND CHAPTER (N.J.)

P.O. BOX 306

MIDLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY 07432



Christmas & Holiday Season Party (2019)

## *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 34<sup>th</sup> Convention**

**President**

Dennis Ng

**Vice-President**

Ray Mombelardi

**Secretary**

Tony Petrovich

**Treasurer**

Bill Stiles





# THE TRUSTEES OF THE SAILORS' SNUG HARBOR

Salutes the U.S. Merchant Mariners  
and  
Navy Armed Veterans of WWII  
for their service and sacrifice to our country.

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 across 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 929 New York, New York 10004  
Tel: 646-465-8585 Toll Free: 1-888-257-5456 Fax: 212-513-0243  
Website: [www.thesailorssnugharbor.org](http://www.thesailorssnugharbor.org)  
Email: [info@thesailorssnugharbor.org](mailto:info@thesailorssnugharbor.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/sailorssnugharbor/](https://www.facebook.com/sailorssnugharbor/)

# SWFLA wishes to give a "HEAVE HO" salute to our 34th Annual American Merchant Marine Veterans Convention!



## Brief Memorial Highlights:

Merchant Marine and Navy Armed Guard Memorial: started March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019  
completed May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Dedicated: 26<sup>th</sup>. May 2019 - Keynote Speaker - WWII Merchant Marine Veteran, Dave Yoho

Wheel donated by Padgett Swan

Memorial Stone funded by: The Gunterberg Foundation/ Culliton Family

Flag Pole donated: AMMV-SWFLA -M.A.L.

WWII Merchant Mariners present: Dave Yoho, Capt John Areins, James Sciples, Morris Buxton

## KING NEPTUNE DONORS: Jon Surprise; Roger Mercaldi, Jr.; Pete Gannon;

Jeff Selvey; Robert Lewis; Laura Johnson Riddle; Johnny Galgano; Gina Ricci; Nancy Sisson; Michael Matt; James Knight; Bob Vint; Mike Finley; Pat Duffy; Patricia DiMattia; Dean DiMattia; Natalie DiMattia; Pat Campbell

***We wish to thank our AMMV family around the country who worked towards this long overdue recognition campaigning for the Congressional Gold Medal Act!***



Chicago Lodge 3  
of the  
International Ship Masters' Association

Salutes the Merchant Mariner Veterans  
and thanks them for all of their efforts in peace and war.



Advocacy

Education

Tradition

[www.chicagoshipmasters.com](http://www.chicagoshipmasters.com)



# 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 endorsing our efforts to promote the cause of  
Servant of God Brother Marinus, O.S.B.

Before taking on the name of Brother Marinus, Capt. Leonard LaRue was the master of the *SS Meredith Victory*, and oversaw the rescue of 14,000 North Koreans over Christmas 1950.

Capt. LaRue also was a World War II Merchant Marine Veteran, sailing as second mate on the *Mormacmar* during Convoy, PQ 13, which sailed from Iceland to Murmansk. After leaving the sea in 1954, he became a Benedictine monk at St. Paul's Abbey in Newton, New Jersey, and took the name Brother Marinus.

For more information about the cause, or to join the Brother Marinus Guild, E-Mail:  
[BrotherMarinusCause@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.aos-usa.org)

FAX: 409-985-5945  
[aosusa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aosusa@sbcglobal.net)

# Cast Bronze Markers for Merchant Marine Veterans



Made in the USA  
Heavy Cast Bronze  
Designed to hold US Flag

[www.uslifesavingmarker.com](http://www.uslifesavingmarker.com)

In Memory of  
DAVID S. HOLMES  
U. S. Merchant Marine Academy, graduated 6 June 1944



Ensign David S. Holmes (left), U. S. Maritime Service  
3rd Mate, *SS Alcoa Patriot*  
ashore with friends at Hotel Richelieu Casino, San Francisco, 5 May '45  
16 September 1921 - 7 January 1996



# Brayton ♦ Purcell LLP

## *Attorneys Helping People*

### ***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 merchant and naval ships, textile products, automotive parts, home and commercial buildings, and more. If asbestos is disturbed, the fibers become airborne resulting in inhalation or ingestion. Individuals serving in the Merchant Marine were and are at significant risk.

#### **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!

Since 1984, we have been dedicated to helping protect your legal rights in the face of devastating losses such as illness, injury, and harm to you or your family members. Our legal staff consists of over 30 attorneys and 190 support personnel with specialized medical, legal, and maritime and technical knowledge that allows us to fight and obtain the best possible results for you and your family. We represent asbestos victims and their families all over the United States and associate local counsel as necessary to handle client's cases. We have successfully represented hundreds of Merchant Marine Veterans over the last 35 years.

Providing excellent service to our clients is the highest goal of Brayton Purcell LLP. We pledge to work ceaselessly on your behalf, providing exceptional advocacy and unparalleled responsiveness. The compassion for and dedication to our clients can be witnessed both in and out of the court room.

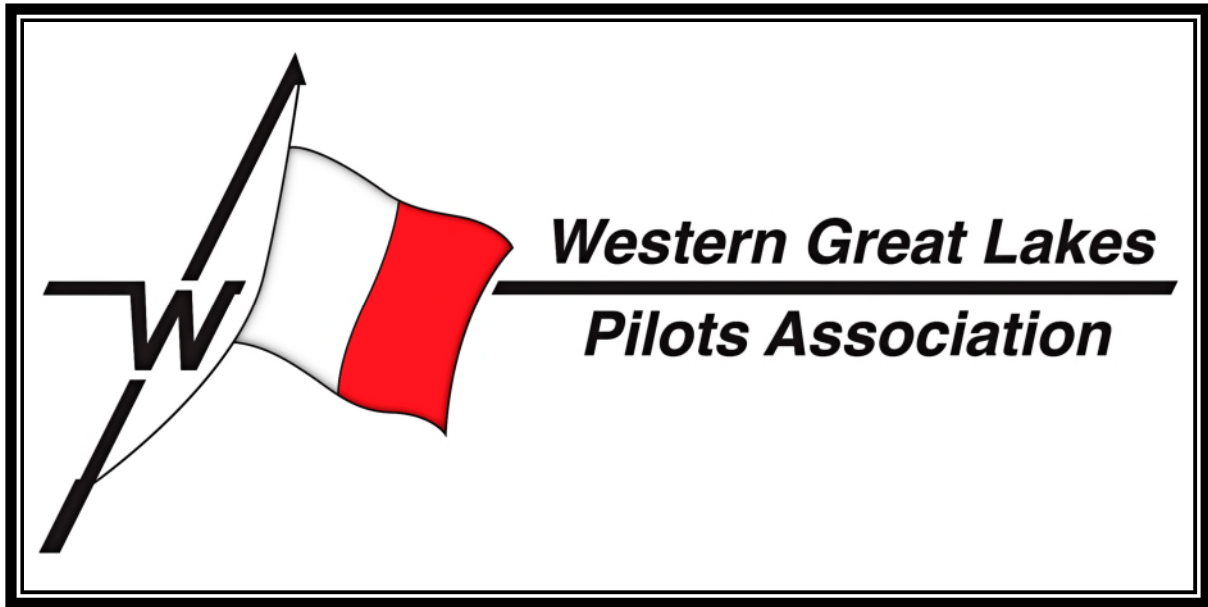
***Find out more at  
[www.braytonlaw.com](http://www.braytonlaw.com)***

#### **San Francisco Bay Area Office**

222 Rush Landing Rd  
Novato, CA 94945  
Toll Free: 800-598-0314  
Phone: 415-898-1555  
Fax: 415-898-1247

#### **Los Angeles Office**

680 South Santa Fe Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90021  
Toll Free: 800-598-0314  
Phone: 415-898-1555  
Fax: 415-898-1247



*Salutes*

AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE VETERANS  
*and congratulates them on passage of the*  
MERCHANT MARINERS OF WWII  
CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

WGLPA Board of Supervisors

Capt. Jon Olney – President  
Capt. Tom Lanthier – 1st Vice President  
Capt. Rory Grant – 2nd Vice President  
Capt. Andy Sciullo – Treasurer  
Capt. Christopher Edyvean – Secretary

P.O. Box 365, Brimley, MI 49715  
(715) 392-5204  
[www.wglpa.com](http://www.wglpa.com)

# Lone Star Chapter

***Houston, TX***

# Pride of the Gulf Coast



2020 – Year of the WWII Merchant Mariners Congressional Gold Medal passage

GREETINGS TO ALL!

Members (Left to Right): Vance W. Murphy, George Offenhauser, Bachleda Vladimir, Capt. Theron Leon Varvil (crossed the bar), Charles A. Mills (Secretary/Treasurer), Guadalupe R. Perez, Santos Flores. Members not pictured: Earl S. Mask, Ray E. Denison, Thomas N. Lightsey, Samuel Smith, Louis J. Walker.



## RESCUED MAT ENJOYS MEAL



Howard McLeod, first mate aboard the American steamship sunk by a Japanese submarine July 14 in the North Pacific, is shown at breakfast here today with his wife. With 15 others, he spent eight days in an open boat, spreading a sail and travelling 400 miles before being picked up. He said today he's still shivering. McLeod is a former Oregon State College student from Wheeler, Or.; his wife is the former Kathleen Cady of Arlington, Johnson County.



Normandy Cemetery – This and other cemeteries are the only territory America kept after rescuing Europe from Hitler.

**FREEDOM IS NOT FREE,  
SOMEONE HAD TO PAY  
FOR IT. ONE OF THOSE  
WHO PAID DEARLY WAS  
THE UNITED STATES  
MERCHANT MARINE OF  
WORLD WAR II.**



Two World War II survivors remembering those who didn't.



## RAZORBACK AMMV NEWSLETTER

### CO-EDITORS

**BOB ROSS**  
111 Stroud  
El Dorado, AR 71730  
Phone (870) 863-4738  
Fax (870) 863-6142

**SHIRLEY & CRAWFORD KNIGHT**  
801 Warren Blvd.  
El Dorado, AR 71730  
Phone (870) 863-7200  
Email: csknight@suddenlink.net



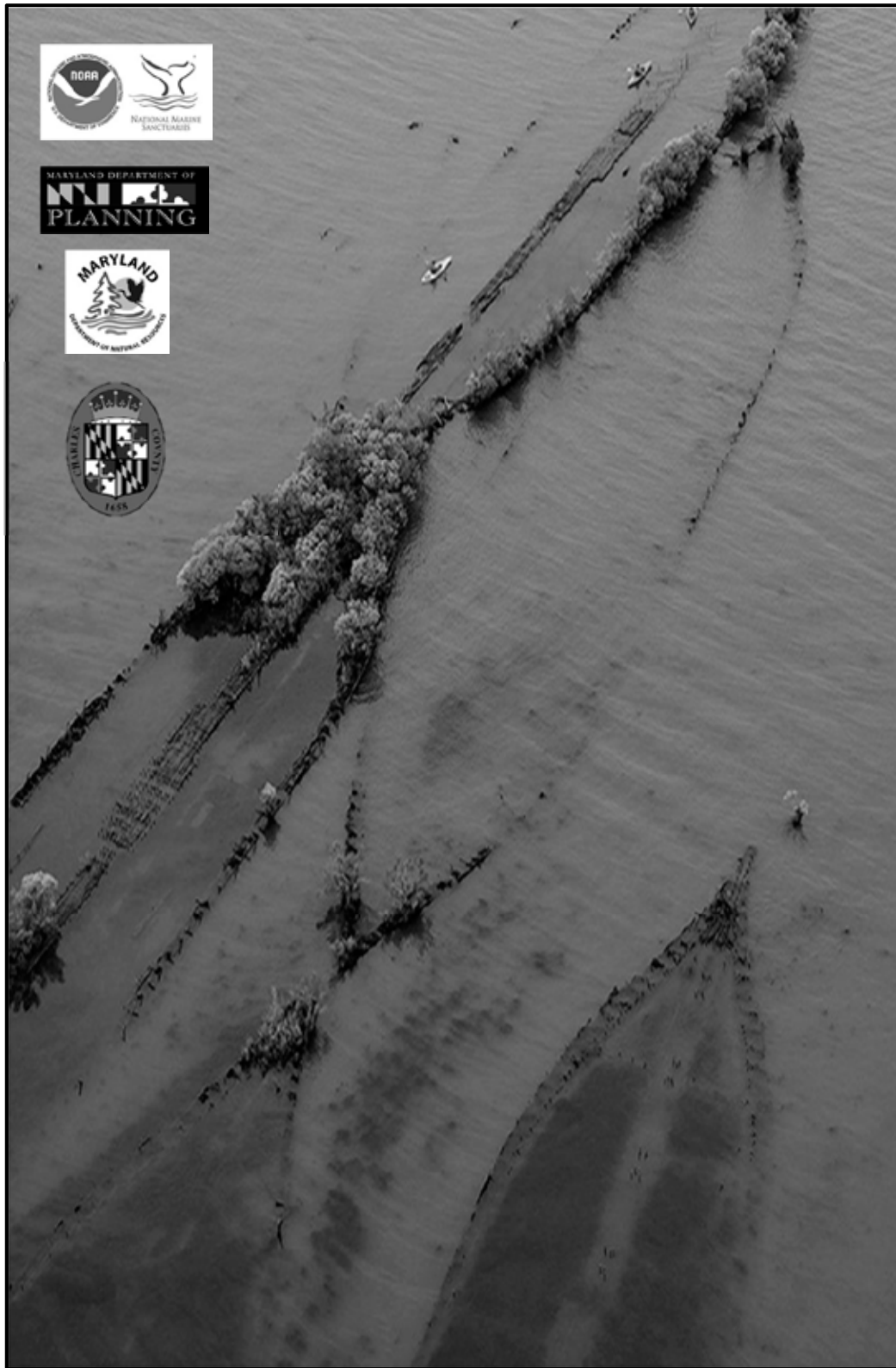


**Congratulations on your 34th National Covention  
and thank you for all you do!**



**From**

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



Drone photo courtesy of Duke University Marine Laboratory.

**NOAA and the State of Maryland  
celebrate the designation of the  
Mallows Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary  
and Commemorate the Service of the  
American Merchant Mariners,  
who commanded the fleet of 100 ships during WWI**



Good luck and congratulations to all AMMV  
Conventioneers, from

## **ROBERT S. POYDASHEFF**

Attorney at Law

Former Mayor of Columbus GA

Colonel, U.S. Army, retired



944 Second Avenue  
Columbus, GA 31909  
(706) 317-3324 office  
(706) 327-9415 home

*I am the son of a Commander, USMS Chief Engineer. As a young man, I  
was a Fireman, Oiler, Watertender.*



**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 34th National Convention at MITAGS***

**CAMM National Officers**

National President

Captain Jeffery G. Cowan

National Secretary/Treasurer

Captain M.H.K. Aschemeyer

First Vice President

Captain Joseph J. Hartnett

Regional Vice President, Gulf Coast

Captain Augusta Roth

Regional Vice President, N. Atlantic

Captain Frank Zabrockey

Regional Vice President, S. Atlantic

Captain Manny Arosemena

Regional Vice President, N. Pacific

Captain Calvin Hunziker

Regional Vice President, S. Pacific

Captain Klaus Niem

Immediate Past President

Captain Richard J. Klein

# *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  
SUCCESFUL ANNUAL CONVENTION.**

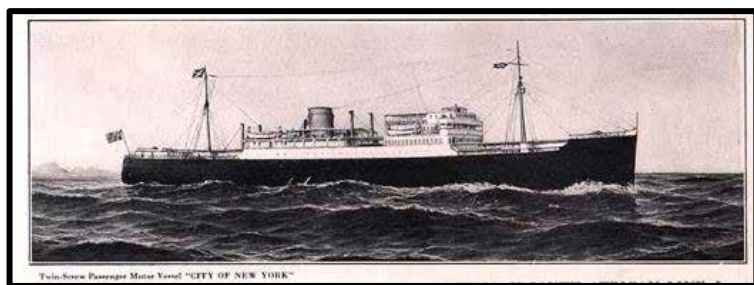




# *Ahoy, A.M.M.V. From Twin Ports Lodge 12 of Duluth-Superior!*



**The Twin Ports Lodge 12 of the International Ship Masters Association salutes our brothers in arms, the American Merchant Marine Veterans. Congratulations on the 34<sup>th</sup> national convention and the progress on the WW II merchant mariner Congressional Gold Medal Act. Yeoman's Job!**



**This week is also the 78<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the torpedoing of the S.S. City Of New York. And of our own Bill Carlson's Atlantic life boat odyssey (at 19!).**



**Since 1883, the International Ship Masters Association has been a respected fraternal organization of Great Lakes Ship Captains and Officers. We work toward a safer and more efficient St. Lawrence Seaway system, as well as help those in need of better employment and wishing to join the ranks of the U.S. Merchant Marine. Through scholarships, mentoring and arranging apprenticeships, we offer unique opportunities to those who otherwise may not be able to join one of the nation's proudest professions, becoming a Great Lakes Mariner.**



# AMMV Midwest Chapter

sends

## GREETINGS

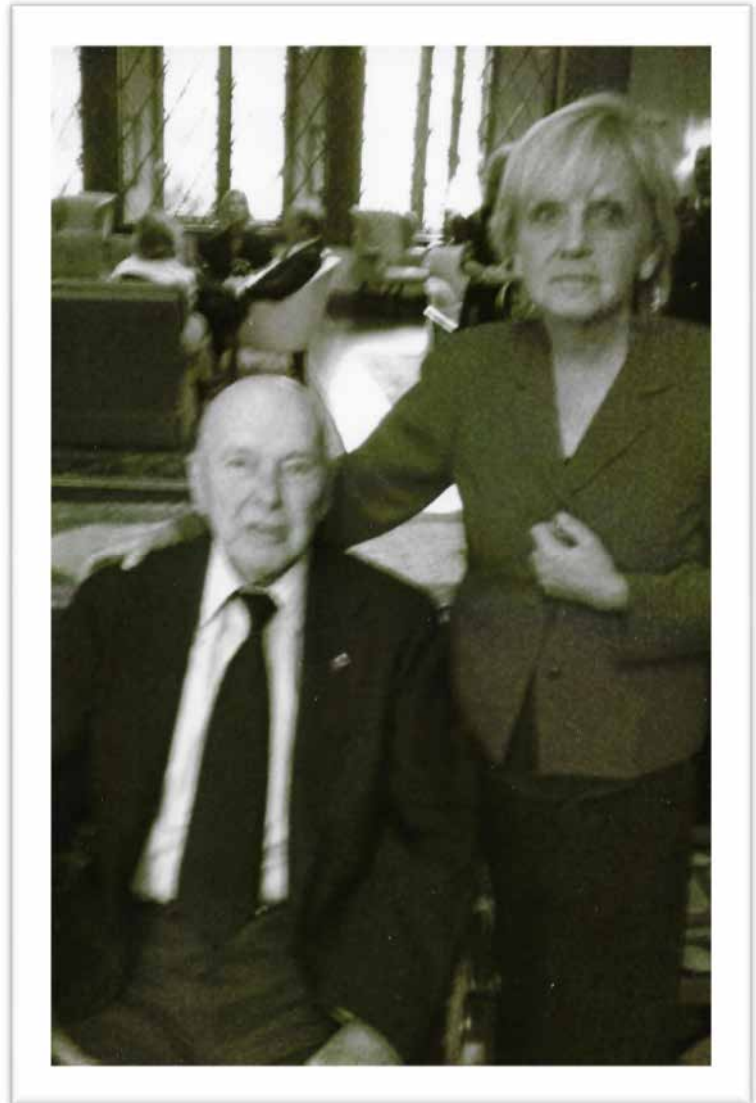
to the

Convention of

### American Merchant Marine Veterans

*1941 – United States Merchant Marine – 1945*

*And honors its  
Treasurer, Karyn Holm,  
who keeps the chapter  
afloat with her award-  
winning newsletter! She  
has served as the  
Treasurer, for what  
seems like forever, as an  
expression of love for her  
father, the late Robert  
McGaghie, WWII  
Merchant Marine  
Veteran and Chapter  
Past President.*



# 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. Kniebes

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



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](http://www.seafarers.org)**

# AMERICAN MARITIME CONGRESS



[WWW.AMERICANMARITIME.ORG](http://WWW.AMERICANMARITIME.ORG)

SS City of Alma

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

The SS City of Alma was a cargo vessel carrying 7,400 tons of war materiel that was torpedoed by a Nazi U-Boat 400 miles northeast of San Juan, Puerto Rico, on June 3<sup>rd</sup> 1942. Of the 39 mariners aboard only 10 survived. This is one of countless stories of brave merchant mariners who made the ultimate sacrifice in service of their country.



**JAMES CAPONTI**

President

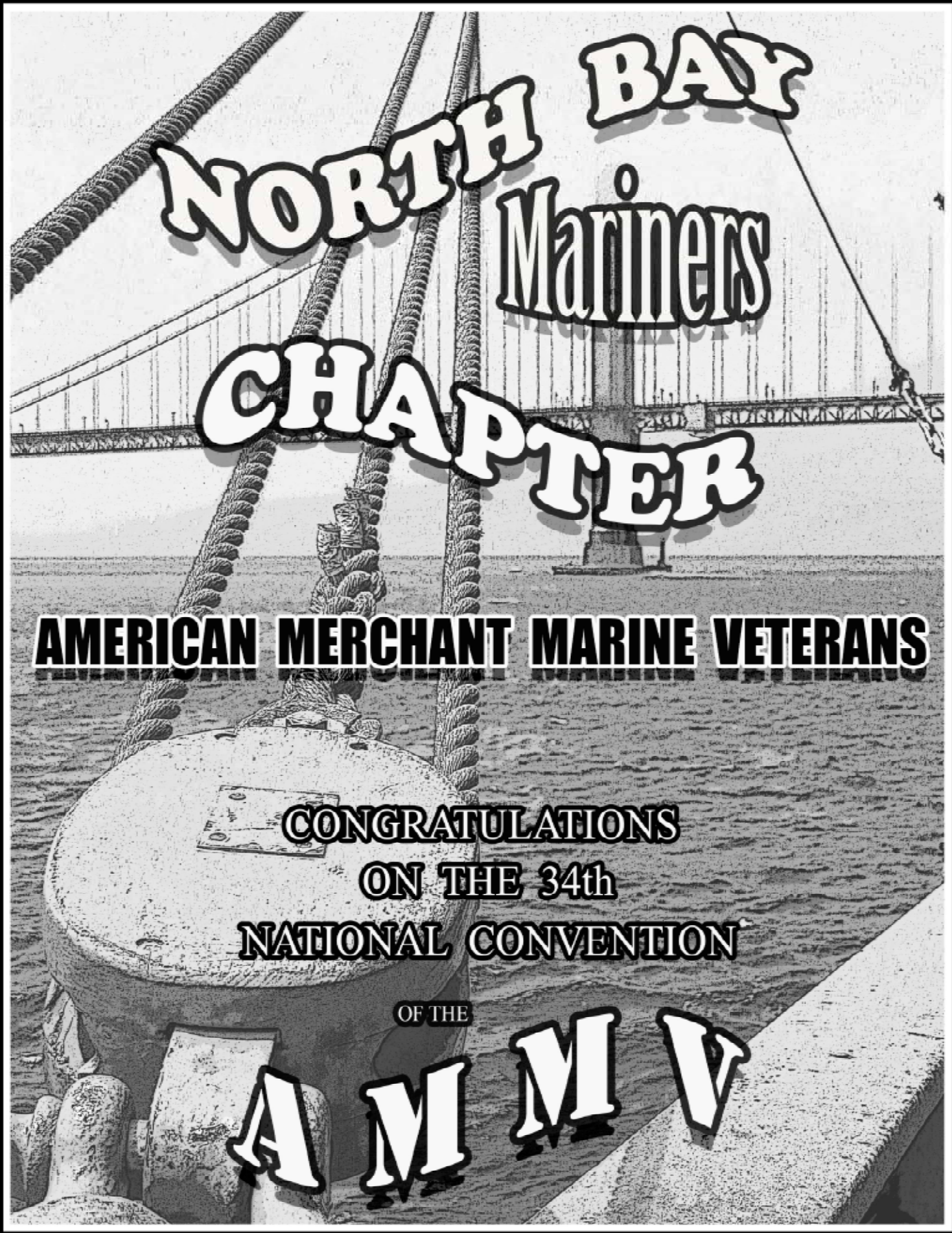
**FAIR KIM**

Policy Director

**RILLA GAITHER**

Senior Advisor





# NORTH BAY Mariners CHAPTER

**AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE VETERANS**

CONGRATULATIONS  
ON THE 34th  
NATIONAL CONVENTION

OF THE

**A M M V**



# Proud to have been a part of 2017-2019 Storm the Hill in Washington D.C.!



*(Left to right: Laura Riddle, Charles Mills, Eugene Barner, Dennis Ng, Sheila Sova, Cindy Komlos and Gerard Driscoll)*

---

As an ambassador for my Father...

I set out to gain what was rightfully his.

What rightfully belongs to all of you!

Recognition of WWII US Merchant Mariners with the Congressional Gold Medal!

---



*"Every merchant seaman you see floating around today has this 'fire in the belly' because we didn't get recognition." - Orville Lee Sova 1927-2015*



# AMMV

## HIGH ROLLERS CHAPTER



*High Rollers chapter wishes the very best to the 2020 Baltimore convention!*

**President:**

Patrick H. Rafferty

**Vice President:**

Kenneth Delancey

**Secretary:**

Cynthia Bledsoe

**Treasurer:**

Sue Pushard

**Members:**

Sandra Barth  
Maria Mahan  
Ada Neal  
Mitzi Tacey

Kenneth Edwards  
Roy Mahan  
Charles B. Smith  
Edward N. Vogt

George Hanson  
Dominic Mileto  
Marla Steinbaugh



## Michigan's Maritime College

- ☑ **Bachelor of Science Degree**
- ☑ **Merchant Marine Officer License**
- ☑ **First Class Pilots License**
- ☑ **A career on the Great Lakes or oceans**

**[nmc.edu/maritime](http://nmc.edu/maritime)**

**877-824-7447**







## **John T. Schmidt Chapter Palmetto Mariners Myrtle Beach, South Carolina**

---

The Myrtle Beach, South Carolina “Palmetto Mariners” Chapter congratulates the AMMV on the occasion of the 34<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://www.usmerchantmarinesc.com)

**CONGRATULATIONS ON THE  
34TH ANNUAL  
AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE VETERANS  
CONVENTION**



**FROM THE CREW AND  
STAFF OF THE  
S.S. LANE VICTORY  
BERTH 49  
SAN PEDRO, CALIFORNIA**

# **Boston Marine Society**

**The Oldest Marine Society in the World**

**Est. 1742**

**“to make navigation safer & to relieve members & their families in poverty or other adverse accidents in life”**



**The Boston Marine Society is proud to support  
American Merchant Marine Veterans  
National Convention 2020.**

**Thank you for your contributions to our Nation.**

Boston Marine Society, 100 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Suite 102

Boston, MA 02129

[www.bostonmarinesociety.org](http://www.bostonmarinesociety.org)



**The 22 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](http://www.maritimetrades.org)*

**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**

**34<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention**

**Linthicum Heights, MD, March 25 – 29, 2020**

FROM

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

**General Officers**

Vacant, Pres., CEO

President Emeritus, Harold J. Wagner

Christian Yuhas, Exec. V.P

Frank Mendez, Fin. Secretary-Treasurer

West Region V.P. – Christian Yuhas



## **THREE RIVERS CHAPTER, INC.**

Serving the Greater Pittsburgh, PA Area 117 Brave Run Rd, McMurray, PA 15317

### **OFFICERS**

**Howard Pfeifer, President**

**Renee Very, Vice President**

**Capt. Scott Nowak, Treasurer**

### **DIRECTORS**

**John Colletti—Joe Kallist—Carol McCoy—Frank Suska—Gerard Driscoll**



# **CONGRATULATIONS GOLD MEDAL HONORARIES!**



# United Seamen's Service (USS)

## Salutes

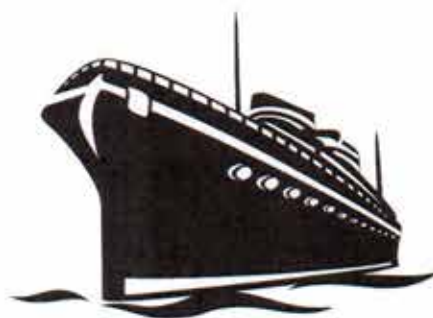
American Merchant Marine Veterans  
34th National Convention

*For over seventy five years, USS Centers  
have provided a "home away from  
home" for seafarers across the globe*

### OVERSEAS CENTERS

**Bremerhaven • Casablanca • Diego Garcia •  
Okinawa • Busan Main • Busan Annex • Yokohama**

**United Seamen's Service  
104 Broadway, Ground Floor  
Jersey City, NJ 07306  
Tel: (201) 369-1100**



**[www.unitedseamensservice.org](http://www.unitedseamensservice.org)**

## **Cletis L. (Buck) Wilfong, U.S. Merchant Marine**

**December 12, 1942 – October 31, 1945 (Enlisted at Age 19 - Now 97)**



**Maritime Service Training Station  
St. Petersburg, Fl.**

**December 12, 1942 - June 30, 1942**

***SS Conrad Kohrs Liberty Ship***

**July 1, 1943 - March 27, 1944**

***SS Fort McHenry T2-SE-A1 Oil Tanker***

**April 25, 1944 - December 21, 1944**

***SS Greenville Victory Ship***

**February 27, 1945 - July 11, 1945**

***SS Kern Hills T2-SE-A1 Oil Tanker***

**August 22, 1945 - October 31, 1945**



**Mayor Ken McClure proclaimed Monday, May 13, 2019 to be  
*Cletis "Buck" Wilfong Day* in the City of Springfield (MO).**

**Buck was given his World War II Merchant Marine Victory Medal  
at an assembly of over 1200 students at Glendale High School**



Veterans History Museum of the Carolinas

21 East Main Street

Brevard, NC 28712

(828) 884-2141

*theveteransmuseum.org*



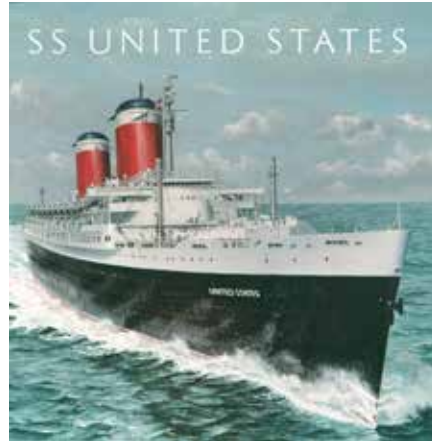
The Board of Directors and friends of the Veterans History Museum of the Carolinas honor  
and salute our favorite Merchant Mariner,

***HAROLD WELLINGTON***

Thank you for your service to our great Country!



# NAVAL VETERANS INSTITUTE USA, INC.



## **A Message from Lothar E.S. Budike, Sr., a Current and Long-Term U.S. Licensed Marine Chief Engineer.**

As a proud and happy American citizen and a current and long term U.S. licensed Marine Chief Engineer, I am honored to be part of the AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE VETERANS ASSOCIATION. For this reason, I hope that you will be able to take part in our work by supporting us and our overall cause, to fulfill our mission and provide the much-needed programs and services we offer as we rely on the generosity of individuals like you and businesses for support.

Today, we ask that you make a commitment to support the AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE VETERANS ASSOCIATION and make a supportive and generous donation!

Thank you in advance for your support!!!

Very Truly Yours,

Lothar E.S. Budike, Sr., P.E.  
Retired Naval Marine Officer and  
Current Licensed U.S. Marine Chief Engineer

# Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association

## District No. 1-PCD (AFL-CIO)

Marshall Ainley  
M.E.B.A. President

Bill Van Loo  
Secretary-Treasurer

Tracy Burke  
Government Fleet Rep.



Adam Vokac  
Executive Vice President

Jason Callahan  
Atlantic Coast Vice President

Erin Bertram  
Gulf Coast Vice President



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.

---

M.E.B.A. Headquarters - 444 North Capitol Street, N.W., Suite 800 - Washington D.C. 20001  
Phone: (202) 638-5355 - Fax: (202) 638-5369 - [mebahq@mebaunion.org](mailto:mebahq@mebaunion.org) - [www.mebaunion.org](http://www.mebaunion.org)





*My dad, my hero...*



My dad, my hero, Edward Raymond Johnson WWII Merchant Mariner (1942-1946) Able Seaman delivering munitions on Liberty ships serving all over the world for our country in combat zones.

My sincere thank you for all the Merchant Marine servicemen and women who served during WWII. You are all Heroes!  
Edward Raymond Johnson (1921-1983)

I'm PROUD to be a daughter of a WWII Merchant Mariner.  
Fighting to make a difference for these Heroes who made a Difference and served their Country honorably.



**LAURA RIDDLE**

REALTOR®

(602) 793-9419

[laurariddleaz@gmail.com](mailto:laurariddleaz@gmail.com)

[www.laurariddleaz.com](http://www.laurariddleaz.com)

  
**WestUSA**  
REALTY

 AMERICAN TITLE  
SERVICE AGENCY  
since 1911

MULTIPLE LISTING SERVICE  
**MLS**

 REALTOR

 OPPORTUNITY