

AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE VETERANS NEWS MAGAZINE



AMMV Veterans Affairs Chair Bob Lewis performs buddy checks — page 22



WWII Merchant Mariner compensation bill passes House — page 36



Never Take "No" for an Answer — page 24



Mulzac tribute

Descendants of Capt. Hugh Mulzac were presented with this original artwork of the Liberty Ship *Booker T. Washington*, painted by maritime artist Capt. Brian Hope. Capt. Mulzac was the first African-American licensed shipmaster in the U.S. Merchant Marine. The Mulzac tribute was one of the highlighting features at the 2020/21 (34th) AMMV National Convention.

About the artist: After graduating from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (Kings Point) in 1965, Brian Hope sailed on U.S. cargo ships in support of the Vietnam War. He began as a Chesapeake Bay pilot (Association of Maryland Pilots) in 1970, retiring over four decades later in 2013. Capt. Hope is also a founding member of Project Liberty Ship. In addition to a lifetime of maritime artwork, he is the author of *Bay Pilot, Volume 1*, a coffee table book detailing the history of the Chesapeake Bay Pilots. *Bay Pilot, Volume 2* will be published soon.

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American Merchant Marine Veterans Official Publication

NEWS MAGAZINE

Published quarterly for the benefit of our members.

Foreign postage additional.

Subscription included in membership fee for AMMV members.

Non-members: \$6.00 per copy.

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The American Merchant Marine Veterans, Inc., a Florida Corporation, not for
profit, assumes no responsibility for unsolicited material.

Published October 25, 2021

The editor and publisher of this magazine assume no responsibility for errors
in submitted material.



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National President Capt. Anthony “Dru” DiMattia



Finally, we were able to navigate the ever-changing world and gather at the Maritime Conference Center for the 34th AMMV National Convention from September 21st to the 24th! This was AMMV's fifth overall convention held in Baltimore, and one of the largest turnouts in recent history.

We thank all of our WWII mariners and their families for attending! I wish

to give a huge shout out to our Convention Committee, including family and friends, for all the hard work that went into making this a successful event. A big shout out to our administrator, Lynn Kelly, for all her hard work that went into this event. The work continues well after the convention is over.

As many of you know, this was one of the first large scale events held at the Maritime Conference Center since the onset of the pandemic in early 2020. We thank all of our new members and guests for joining us on this condensed version of our convention, which we have normally spread out over five days. Rumor has it that AMMV members have expressed an interest in hosting the next convention in Reno, NV. Wherever the location, plans must commence soon! AMMV convention planners and volunteers are needed for repeated success with the 35th National Convention. Again, planning must start now!

On behalf of the National Officers and Convention Committee members, I wish to highlight that AMMV was able to offset costs to our WWII AMMV members in attendance. Our convention hosted 20 WWII Merchant Mariners who spanned the ages from 93 to 101 years young! We even celebrated a birthday on September 22nd for our AMMV member, Howard Pfeifer, who turned 98! We sang out birthday wishes to all of our WWII mariners, especially to Charles Mills, Charles Montanaro, and “Big John” Laughton, who turns 100 later this month!

On Tuesday the 21st, our sign-up sheets for the bridge shiphhandling simulator tour and the field trip to the Liberty Ship *John W. Brown* filled up fairly quickly. My good friend Captain Steve Thalheimer, from my alma mater, Maine Maritime Academy, was the MITAGS simulator tour guide who conducted two tours on Wednesday morning. Steve stated

he had a great time showing the modern training tools for standing a bridge watch. The shiphhandling simulator tour picked back up on Friday morning with tour guide Matt and another group getting a crack at driving ships!

The field trip to the *S/S John W. Brown* on the 22nd required a second bus accounting for 75 AMMV members and guests. The volunteers from Project Liberty Ship were amazed to see our turnout of WWII mariners, especially the numerous vibrant mariners who made it down to lower engine room! Some folks have commented, “Once you cross the gangway, it's like the fountain of youth getting a hold of you”!

AMMV set the stage for a wonderful reception dinner on the 23rd of September to shed light on multiple aspects of historical and current events in our maritime industry. Both federal and private industry leaders shared in honoring our Fourth Arm of Defense, the U.S. Merchant Marine. From honoring our WWII mariners present, to highlighting the Military to Maritime program, to recognizing the Mulzac legacy from our public and private maritime sectors, to thanking our hosts for their commitment to AMMV over the many years of “Storming the Hill”, to MARAD presiding over the unveiling of the Congressional Gold Medal designs, to sing along performances, and to our Keynote speaker, WWII Merchant Mariner Dave Yoho, who paid tribute to all those mariners who have crossed the final bar; we came together for fellowship after this prolonged time away. It has been over two and a half years since the National Convention in Tampa, and those who attended this convention saw firsthand that the torch of the WWII American Merchant Marine Veterans organization remains vibrant!

While the AMMV convention committee arrived at the Maritime Conference Center on September 19th, our very own AMMV WWII member Charles Mills and family were invited into Washington, DC by Congressman Al Green. Charles went before the Black Caucus of legislators assisting with getting the message of the WWII Merchant Mariners out. By weeks end, the bill was made into an amendment, added in H.R. 4350, which passed the House! See additional information in this issue. Timing is everything, and right now there stands one of the best opportunities that AMMV has had in decades in getting a compensation bill signed! Nice work Charles; there are no words to express the gratitude we have for you and your beautiful family! Charles has reclaimed his role as Chairman of the Government Affairs Committee. We thank him for his continued service to AMMV.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

The Congressional Gold Medal should be completed for an official ceremony in late winter or early Spring of 2022. We are expecting to hear from the House of Representatives regarding this schedule. The AMMV will keep everyone apprised as soon as we hear anything!

Another very important ongoing project throughout 2020 and well into 2021 is the inevitable transition of our non-profit status from a 501(c)(19) to a 501(c)(3). This process cannot be over emphasized. The IRS application was filed last April. We were recently told that the IRS may contact us in October regarding the process. We remain hopeful that our lawyer's representation and filing of this application will have the outcome sought for AMMV's future.

Nationwide, we continue to have volunteers attending ceremonies and capturing interviews with maritime related honors of our WWII Mariners. Some of these honors have been attended by state and federal agencies honoring the living and those that have crossed the final bar. These efforts are supported by AMMV and archived on our website, YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter feeds.

Back on August 16th, AMMV was invited to represent the Convoy Cup Foundation at St Paul's Abbey in Newton, NJ. This ceremony was to honor the 20th year of the passing of the late Captain Leonard LaRue. This is the incredible story of the evacuation of 14,000 refugees from Hungnam, North Korea on December 23rd, 1950. Captain LaRue also served in WWII making many Atlantic crossings, including a trip to Murmansk. In 1954, Captain LaRue left going to sea and joined the Benedictine monastery of St Paul's

Abbey, receiving the name Brother Marinus. AMMV had the distinct pleasure of presenting the Convoy Cup medal, alongside MARAD representatives who presented a beautiful shadow box of medals to the brethren of Brother Marinus/Captain LaRue. Dr. Shashi Kumar from MARAD presided over the Gallant Ship Korean War "Ship of Miracles" presentation. There are three crew members from the *Meredith Victory* still with us today: Robert Lunney, Burley Smith, and Merl Smith. As Third Officer of the *S/S Meredith Victory*, Burley Smith joined the ceremony by Zoom. We were able to interview Burley earlier this year; this interview is featured on our YouTube channel. Dr. Shashi Kumar just so happens to be my former professor when I was at Maine Maritime back in the mid-eighties. I haven't seen him in 35 years! We crossed paths at the monastery of St Paul's Abbey; who would have guessed that?

In closing, I wish to again thank all of our volunteers who assisted with the long, drawn-out convention planning that played out over two and a half years! Thank you all for staying the course! There is much work yet to do as we stay the course honoring our Greatest Generation!

To all the AMMV members who may be in arrears with dues, please stay with us, as we continue to chart new voyages honoring our WWII Merchant Mariners, along with setting our sights on recognition for all the mariners serving in the "Fourth Arm of Defense".

Have a good watch,

Captain Dru DiMattia

AMMV National President



IN MEMORY OF THOSE WHO HAVE CROSSED THE FINAL BAR

WILLIAM H. AUMILLER..... Dublin, OH

MYRON A. "MIKE" BAKKE Willmar, MN

PRESTON L. BRYANT..... Bamberg, SC

BILLIE SMITH D'ENTREMONT..... Hernando, FL

PAUL DURWARD..... Hamburg, NY

WILLIAM D. GEORGE..... Suffolk, VA

JAMES C. GREEN..... Phoenix, AZ

WILLIAM "BILL" HISCOX, JR. McKinleyville, CA

HAROLD KORTUM..... Ellensburg, WA

JOSEPH E. MARSON Boynton Beach, FL

WALTER G. NEUMAN, JR Rockledge, FL

VINCENT J. "VINCE" PATTERSON Signal Mountain, TN

JOHN G. ROBERTS..... Moorpark, CA

SAMUEL G. SMITH, JR..... San Antonio, TX

DONALD SPANGLER Alamonte Springs, FL

CHARLES W. "TOBY" STOUTD Orion, IL

CLINTON WEAVER..... Harrisburg, PA

To honor a loved one, memorial donations may be made to the American Merchant Marine Veterans organization on the loved one's behalf. This is a tribute to their memory and the dedicated service they gave to their country and to mankind. Thank you for your thoughtful gesture. Donations may be sent to: AMMV, P.O. Box 2024, Darien, CT 06820-2024.



National Vice President Sheila M. Sova



TSUNAMI WARNING!

The AMMV National Convention created more than a ripple....it made tidal waves! With over 200 attendees to the Congressional Gold Medal Celebration Dinner on Thursday, Sept. 23rd, literally all segments of the maritime industry were represented. Even the AMMV was recognized

with the *American Maritime Heroes Award* by the American Maritime Partnership, American Maritime Officers, Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association, Master Mates & Pilots, and the Seafarers International Union.

Coverage of the convention was plentiful in the days following with articles coming from Anthony C. Hayes of the Baltimore Post Examiner on our visit to the SS *John W. Brown*; ABC affiliate WLOS, North Carolina, series on our veterans, by Kenneth C. Corn; and gCaptain's Founder/CEO Capt. John Konrad. The Baltimore Council Navy League fall newsletter also gave "credit where well deserved" to the WWII Merchant Mariners at the AMMV National Convention.

Even Rita Cosby brought her live radio show on 77 WABC New York to the Maritime Conference Center in Linthicum Heights, MD. Her guests that night were our own Dave Yoho, Charles A. Mills (both WWII USMM Veterans), and Captain Richard Phillip, who ended the late-night program with gripping details of the Somali pirates that kidnapped him from the *Maersk Alabama* in 2009.

National Convention activity prompted numerous social media outlets to tweet about the three-day event. Norway in the USA (Norwegian Embassy in DC) highlighted pictures of Captain Egil Vasstrand placing the Norwegian/Nova Scotian Convoy Cup Medallion on various recipients. Accounts such as the Veterans History Museum of the Carolinas tweeted photos of our veterans on the Liberty Ship *John W. Brown*. The Twitter page of the Port of Baltimore posted twice recognizing our WWII Veterans at the SS *John Brown* event. Even the *John W. Brown* blog included our visit to the ship. Guest speaker at our convention, maritime historian Salvatore Mercogliano, tweeted about our convention, while gCaptain focused on the tribute of Captain Hugh Mulzac, the first African American Merchant Mariner to command

a Liberty Ship in WWII. The American Maritime Congress, U.S. Department of Transportation, and several maritime unions tweeted about our convention as well.

Peoples World newsletter (peoplesworld.org) also wrote a tribute called "*Honors for Hugh Mulzac, the captain who fought Jim Crow, Hitler, and McCarthy*". High praise was given to the AMMV by author Tony Pecinovsky, who was in the audience. Another audience member was from International Publisher who was contacted in efforts to re-publish Captain Mulzac's first book called *A Star to Steer By*, which will be available in the next several months.

Our AMMV National Convention created a tidal wave indeed; perhaps a tsunami of recognition is on its way! However, there is more work to be done. A resolution was passed at this convention, written by CA member Patrick Cotter, who has been working tirelessly for the past two years to get the Merchant Marine song *Heave Ho* played and MM flag in the national spotlight, namely at the PBS Memorial Day concert. Then and only then, a tsunami will be imminent. You've been warned! Heave Ho!

Sheila M. Sova
National Vice President



REMINDER:

2022 IS ELECTION YEAR FOR AMMV REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT POSITIONS

RVP elections for the eight regional offices will be in 2022. As per Section 202 (B) of the AMMV Bylaws, all potential candidates (including those seeking reelection) must signal intent by notifying the National President and/or the National Office in writing, no later than December 31st of the year immediately preceding the election year. The term of office will be from 7/01/2022 thru 6/30/2024. All potential candidates must remain members in good standing.



National Office Administrator Lynn Kelly



As of October 8th, forty-five percent of our AMMV Members did not pay their membership dues for July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Therefore, we can no longer depend on the \$32 dues (not an exorbitant sum) collected from the remaining members to sustain the organization. While members-at-large pay \$32 annually, in the case of most chapters, members pay only

\$25 to the National Office. We are operating on donations from a couple of very generous donors. According to our By-Laws and Constitution, we are a not-for-profit organization which is funded by "dues paying members". We have not raised our dues in many years and at each convention this topic is brought up. We are urged by some of our WWII Veterans not to increase dues. However, as all of us who pay bills know, this path is not sustainable.

For example, production of the quarterly news magazine costs the organization over \$22,000 per year. We have improved the magazine this year and have not passed the cost of improvements on to our membership. Although we use the same layout professional, who is an independent contractor, we have switched to a new publisher and printer. We have improved the paper and print quality and changed production to an entire magazine in full color, while incurring very little additional cost. The improvements make the

magazine heavier and more costly to mail. Fortunately, Capt. Chris Edyvean works as a volunteer editor (a huge job) so we are no longer paying editorial fees (for as long as Chris is able, due to his "real job"). The U.S. Postal Service just instituted another rate increase effective October 1st. The magazine which used to cost \$1.65 to mail two years ago now costs about \$2.85 due to postal rate increases and our heavier product. Our magazine, to a major extent, is used for outreach and promoting our mission. It is our connection to our members, media outlets, and to industry participants.

At the convention we discussed the problem of member retention. Although we are able to attract new members, most recently through social media thanks to Chris and Sheila, many of those "recruits" do not renew their membership after a year or two. In an effort to find a solution to this loss of members attributable to non-payment of renewal dues, AMMV is beginning a membership retention drive headed by Christian Yuhas, former AMMV VP and the current RVP of region #8. Our committee volunteers are Patti Holmes, Thomas G. Hill, and Steve Snyder. We are in the process of assessing the feasibility of calling and/or emailing delinquent members to remind them that dues were due for all members on July 1, 2021. If you would like to assist on this new committee, please let us know by emailing me ammervets@gmail.com or calling the number below.

If you are not sure if you are paid up, please feel free to call me, 475-470-9200, and I will be happy to check for you.

Calm Seas,

Lynn C. Kelly



Cineflix film on Battle of the Atlantic is now viewable online



The film titled *Hitler's American Battlefield* has been completed and is now viewable online at no charge. The 1 hour 22-minute film was produced by Cineflix Productions, in association with National Geographic, and centers around the NOAA Marine Sanctuary's efforts to expand existing underwater marine sanctuaries to include the gravesites of several war wrecks, both those of U.S./Allied vessels and Axis U-boats. In 2017, AMMV resolved to support such sanctuary expansion. To view, follow the link, and log-in with your cable provider if required:

<https://www.sciencechannel.com/video/hitlers-american-battlefield-science-atve-us/hitlers-american-battlefield>





NEWS Magazine Editor Capt. Christopher Edyvean



Convention success

The 2020/21 (34th) AMMV National Convention is in the rearview mirror. The convention was a success, both in terms of considering our attendance (well over 200) and factoring in the high-profile agenda items, such as the unveiling of the Merchant Mariners of WWII Congressional Gold Medal designs and the industry tribute to the late Capt.

Hugh Mulzac.

However, perhaps the most notable feat of this convention was that twenty Merchant Marine veterans of WWII made the trip to Baltimore. The average age of these vets was about 96, with two over 100. Of equal mention is the supportiveness of their families, many of whom had large numbers in attendance. What a heartwarming show of support!

Attendance also included many AMMV members who are children/family of a veteran who has "crossed the bar". To all of these members, we are thankful for your continued interest and dedication to AMMV! Also, not to be overlooked are a couple young Merchant Mariners who attended for the first time; this "new blood" is what is necessary to keep advancing AMMV into the future. Finally, more so

than at any past AMMV event, the number of prominent maritime figures at our featured dinner was astonishing! This proves that AMMV is "on the map" and doing well as an organization which honors our veterans, works to preserve our American maritime heritage, and advocates for a strong modern-day U.S.-flagged fleet.

"Just Compensation" is back!

The provisions of H.R. 39, which if enacted, would provide eligible WWII Merchant Mariners with a one-time lump payment of \$25,000, were added as Amendment 100 into H.R. 4350, which passed the House on September 23rd. For the first time in many years, there is reasonable hope that our living WWII mariners may see compensation for the many years they endured in the absence of promised GI Bill-type benefits. We owe much of this credit to Charles A. Mills, for it was his persistence in seeking a meeting with Congressman Al Green that ultimately led to this progress. Please see the "Just Compensation" section for more information.

Wishing everyone a wonderful fall season!

Christopher L. Edyvean

Capt. Christopher J. Edyvean
AMMV News Editor & Past National President



Earlier this year, AMMV member & WWII Merchant Mariner John Keane served as the Grand Marshal in the Memorial Day parade at Wolcott, CT. (Photos by Jodi Keane, daughter-in-law)

American Merchant Marine Veterans

Profit & Loss

July through September 2021

Income	
402 · Contributions	6,314.47
405 · Mission Advance Support	11,804.84
410 · Chapter and MAL Dues	
CEC · Central California	1.26
DAR · Dennis Roland	448.00
EOH · Edwin O'Hara	32.00
GLD · Golden Gate	575.00
HIR · High Rollers	225.00
JTS · John T. Schmidt/Palmetto	350.00
LON · Lone Star	100.00
MAL · Members at Large	5,028.00
NBM · North Bay Mariners	300.00
ORV · Oswego River Valley	75.00
THR · Three Rivers	600.00
Total 410 · Chapter and MAL Dues	7,734.26
411 · Convention Income	
412 · Convention Registrations	3,625.00
413 · Comm. Book Ads	4,500.00
414 · Convention Donations	8,550.00
415 · Convention Dinner	5,759.60
416 · Convention Table	100.00
411 · Convention Income - Other	350.00
Total 411 · Convention Income	22,884.60
420 · Magazine Ads	75.00
Total Income	48,813.17
Expense	
500 · Fixed Expense	
507 · Telephone	539.80
511 · Svc Charges - Paypal & Square	405.10
Total 500 · Fixed Expense	944.90
514 · Convention Expenses	
515 · Convention Events	6,645.10
517 · Convention Misc. Exp	2,953.06
Total 514 · Convention Expenses	9,598.16
520 · Mission Advance Expenses	
521 · Awards	380.90
525 · Mission Support Exp	11,123.94
526 · Internet Initiative	300.00
Total 520 · Mission Advance Expenses	11,804.84
530 · AMMV News Magazine	
533 · Postage	1,463.98
536 · Printing	3,880.24
Total 530 · AMMV News Magazine	5,344.22
550 · Personnel	
551 · Administration	5,100.00
Total 550 · Personnel	5,100.00

560 · Operating Expense	
564 · Office Supplies	434.34
565 · Postage - Office	118.50
567 · Licenses & Fees	140.00
Total 560 · Operating Expense	692.84
Total Expense	33,484.96
Net Income	15,328.21

AMMV conducts more interviews

In August, AMMV President Capt. Dru DiMattia facilitated an interview with Capt. Hugh Stephens, a WWII Merchant Mariner who is a recently retired professor at SUNY Maritime Academy, and a short while ago served on the ad hoc CGM Design Committee. This interview can be viewed at: <https://youtu.be/PD8tM-cVaAFE>

Additionally in August, Dr. Joshua Smith of the American Merchant Marine Museum at Kings Point was interviewed by AMMV. Dr. Smith rendered a great interview discussing U.S. Merchant Marine history and highlighted where and how the Congressional Gold Medal will reside at the museum.

**American Merchant Marine Veterans
Balance Sheet
As of September 30, 2021**

	Sep 30, 21
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
103 · Paypal	-26.96
105 · Chase Bank	400,310.63
130 · Square	-57.90
Total Checking/Savings	400,225.77
Total Current Assets	400,225.77
TOTAL ASSETS	400,225.77
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Credit Cards	
200 · Chase Credit Card	3,248.02
Total Credit Cards	3,248.02
Other Current Liabilities	
311 · Dues Receivable	192.00
312 · Member Recruitment	893.00
314 · Mission Advance Fund	43,860.32
Total Other Current Liabilities	44,945.32
Total Current Liabilities	48,193.34
Total Liabilities	48,193.34
Equity	
32001 · Retained Earnings	336,704.22
Net Income	15,328.21
Total Equity	352,032.43
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	400,225.77

VERY IMPORTANT MESSAGE:

AMMV Memberships expired on June 30, 2021. A small number of members have paid ahead by adding additional years so their memberships will expire in 2022 or later. Please check your last membership card which you received upon renewal and make sure of your annual expiration date. If you are in doubt, please call me, 475-470-9200 or email me ammermarvets@gmail.com. I am happy to check for you. If you need to renew for the July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 annual membership year send a \$32 check made out to AMMV and mail it to AMMV, P.O. Box 2024, Darien, CT 06820-2024. To renew online go to our website www.ammv.us and hit the button on top that says JOIN. When you get to the next page it will give you an opportunity to choose either join or renew. If you belong to a chapter please contact your chapter Secretary or Treasurer.

Approved BUDGET: FISCAL YEAR July 1st, 2020 - June 30th, 2021

INCOME			
402	CONTRIBUTIONS	\$	41,000.00
409	MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	\$	-
410	DUES		
	CHAPTER MEMBERSHIPS	\$	8,000.00
	MEMBERS AT LARGE	\$	24,000.00
	TOTAL ESTIMATED DUES	\$	32,000.00
401	INTEREST + MAG. ADS.	\$	-
403	INTEREST INCOME + BANK BONUSES	\$	-
404	INTEREST INCOME + BANK BONUSES	\$	925.00
405	MISSION SUPPORT FUND	\$	7,550.00
	TOTAL INTEREST, BONUSES, MISSION SPRT.	\$	8,475.00
411	CONVENTION INCOME - OTHER	\$	-
412	REGISTRATIONS	\$	630.00
413	MEMORY/SPONSORSHIP BOOK	\$	-
414	CONVENTION DONATIONS	\$	7,295.00
415	CONVENTION DINNER	\$	-
	TOTAL CONVENTION INCOME	\$	7,925.00
400	TOTAL INCOME	\$	89,400.00
EXPENSES			
500	FIXED EXPENSES		
501	BANK CHARGES	\$	45.00
503	RENT/NATIONAL OFFICE EQUIP.	\$	-
506	INSURANCE	\$	-
507	TELEPHONE	\$	390.00
508	RENT/OCCUPANCY	\$	-
509	UTILITIES/NATIONAL OFFICE	\$	-
511	SERVICE CHARGES PAYPAL	\$	174.00
500	TOTAL FIXED EXPENSES	\$	609.00
512	MEMORIAL EXPENSE	\$	150.00
513	ADVERTISING	\$	100.00
	TOTAL MEMORIAL & AD EXPENSES	\$	250.00
514	CONVENTION EXPENSES		
515	CONVENTION EVENTS	\$	950.00
517	CONVENTION MISC. EXPENSES	\$	6,400.00
518	MEMORY/SPONSORSHIP BOOK EXPENSES	\$	-
	TOTAL CONVENTION EXPENSES	\$	7,350.00
520	MISSION ADVANCE Expense		
521	AWARDS & RECOGNITION	\$	-
522	RECRUIT-MAIL	\$	-
525	MISSION SUPPORT EXPENSE	\$	5,500.00
526	INTERNET INITIATIVE	\$	875.00
	WEBSITE MAINTENANCE	\$	-
	SEO SERVICES	\$	-
	SOCIAL MEDIA ADVERTISING	\$	-
520	TOTAL MISSION ADVANCE EXPENSES	\$	6,375.00
530	AMMV NEWS MAGAZINE EXPENSES		
533	POSTAGE	\$	3,600.00
536	PRINTING	\$	9,900.00
538	LAYOUT	\$	5,200.00
539	EDITORIAL FEE	\$	1,200.00
530	TOTAL MAGAZINE EXPENSES	\$	19,900.00
550	PERSONNEL Expense		
551	NATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR	\$	18,600.00
552	NATIONAL PRESIDENT	\$	-
553	NATIONAL SECRETARY	\$	-
554	NATIONAL TREASURER	\$	-
555	NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT	\$	-
556	REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS	\$	-
550	TOTAL PERSONNEL EXPENSES	\$	18,600.00
560	OPERATING EXPENSES		
564	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$	440.00
565	POSTAGE - OFFICE	\$	350.00
566	PRINTING - OFFICE	\$	1,500.00
567	LICENSING & FEES	\$	250.00
569	LEGAL FEES	\$	1,000.00
560	TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$	3,540.00
	TOTAL PROJECTED EXPENSES	\$	56,624.00
	NET INCOME	\$	32,776.00

PROPOSED BUDGET: FISCAL YEAR July 1st, 2021 - June 30th, 2022

INCOME			
402	CONTRIBUTIONS	\$	252,800.00
409	MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	\$	-
410	DUES		
	CHAPTER MEMBERSHIPS	\$	-
	MEMBERS AT LARGE	\$	-
	TOTAL ESTIMATED DUES	\$	21,900.00
401	INTEREST + MAG. ADS.	\$	-
403	INTEREST INCOME + BANK BONUSES	\$	-
404	INTEREST INCOME + BANK BONUSES	\$	-
405	MISSION SUPPORT FUND	\$	-
	TOTAL INTEREST, BONUSES, MISSION SPRT.	\$	-
411	CONVENTION INCOME - OTHER	\$	875.00
412	REGISTRATIONS	\$	3,825.00
413	MEMORY/SPONSORSHIP BOOK	\$	4,500.00
414	CONVENTION DONATIONS	\$	13,000.00
415	CONVENTION DINNER	\$	5,780.00
	TOTAL CONVENTION INCOME	\$	27,980.00
	TOTAL PROJECTED INCOME	\$	302,680.00
EXPENSES			
500	FIXED EXPENSES		
501	BANK CHARGES	\$	-
503	RENT/NATIONAL OFFICE EQUIP.	\$	-
506	INSURANCE	\$	-
507	TELEPHONE	\$	-
508	RENT/OCCUPANCY	\$	1,139.00
509	UTILITIES/NATIONAL OFFICE	\$	299.80
511	SERVICE CHARGES - PAYPAL & SQUARE	\$	225.00
500	TOTAL FIXED EXPENSES	\$	1,663.80
512	MEMORIAL EXPENSE	\$	150.00
513	ADVERTISING	\$	-
	TOTAL MEMORIAL & AD EXPENSES	\$	150.00
514	CONVENTION EXPENSES		
515	CONVENTION EVENTS	\$	-
517	CONVENTION MISC. EXPENSES	\$	7,597.00
518	MEMORY/SPONSORSHIP BOOK EXPENSES	\$	464.00
	TOTAL CONVENTION EXPENSES	\$	8,061.00
520	MISSION ADVANCE Expense		
521	AWARDS & RECOGNITION	\$	381.00
522	AMMV Marketing	\$	5,000.00
525	MISSION SUPPORT EXPENSE	\$	36,184.00
526	INTERNET INITIATIVE	\$	1,200.00
520	TOTAL MISSION ADVANCE EXPENSES	\$	42,765.00
530	AMMV NEWS MAGAZINE EXPENSES		
533	POSTAGE	\$	6,012.00
536	PRINTING	\$	18,200.00
538	LAYOUT	\$	2,908.00
539	EDITORIAL FEE	\$	-
530	TOTAL MAGAZINE EXPENSES	\$	27,120.00
550	PERSONNEL Expense		
551	NATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR	\$	20,400.00
552	NATIONAL PRESIDENT	\$	4,000.00
553	NATIONAL SECRETARY	\$	500.00
554	NATIONAL TREASURER	\$	500.00
555	NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT	\$	1,500.00
556	REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS	\$	600.00
550	TOTAL PERSONNEL EXPENSES	\$	27,500.00
560	OPERATING EXPENSES		
564	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$	-
565	POSTAGE - OFFICE	\$	-
566	PRINTING - OFFICE	\$	-
567	LICENSING & FEES	\$	250.00
569	LEGAL FEES	\$	2,500.00
560	TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$	2,750.00
	TOTAL PROJECTED EXPENSES	\$	110,009.80
	PROJECTED NET INCOME	\$	192,670.20

NOTES

Membership in the arrears \$

Personnel expense for National Officers is a budgeted number, based on projected participation of National Officers. This is not to be confused with amounts allowed per By-Laws.

Website maintenance is an necessary expense; we must invest and continue to modernize our website. Commenced 04-2021; active 05-2021

Awards & Recognition may include both physical awards (plaques, etc.) and monetary incentive checks.

AMMV allowed Per Diem expenses for V.I.P guests

“Military to Maritime” Program



The Military to Maritime Program assists veterans of the U.S. military in transitioning to a career in the U.S. Merchant Marine. AMMV convention attendees witnessed firsthand the official signing of Military to Maritime eligibility for the Great Lakes Maritime Academy's Third Engineer Program.

So, what exactly is “Military to Maritime”? Back on March

4th, 2019, President Donald Trump signed an Executive Order to kickstart this program, which serves not only as an employment program to assist veterans, but also as a means to help fill manpower shortages in the U.S. Merchant Marine. Below is the language from Trump's 2019 Executive Order on such; for more info: <https://militarytomaritime.org>

Executive Order: Veterans into the Merchant Marine

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and to promote employment opportunities for United States military veterans while growing the cadre of trained United States mariners available to meet United States requirements for national and economic security, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. It is the policy of the United States to support practices and programs that ensure that members of the United States Armed Forces receive appropriate credit for their military training and experience, upon request, toward credentialing requirements as a merchant mariner. It is further the policy of the United States to establish and maintain an effective merchant marine program by providing sufficient support and resources to active duty and separating service members who pursue or possess merchant mariner credentials.

A robust merchant marine is vital to the national and economic security of the United States. Credentialed United States merchant mariners support domestic and international trade, are critical for strategic defensive and offensive military sealift operations, and bring added expertise to Federal vessel operations. Unfortunately, the United States faces a shortage of qualified merchant mariners. As our strategic competitors expand their global footprint, the United States must retain its ability to project and sustain forces globally. This capability requires a sufficient corps of credentialed merchant mariners available to crew the necessary sealift fleet. Attracting additional trained and credentialed mariners, particularly from active duty service members and military veterans, will support United States national security requirements and provide meaningful, well-paying jobs to United States veterans.

Sec. 2. Definition. For the purposes of this order, the term “applicable service” includes any of the “armed forces,” as that term is defined in section 101(a)(4)(A) of title 10, United States Code.

Sec. 3. Credentialing Support. (a) To support merchant mariner credentialing and the maintenance of such credentials, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security, with

respect to the applicable services in their respective departments, and in coordination with one another and with the United States Committee on the Marine Transportation System, shall, consistent with applicable law:

- (i) Within 1 year from the date of this order, identify all military training and experience within the applicable service that may qualify for merchant mariner credentialing, and submit a list of all identified military training and experience to the United States Coast Guard National Maritime Center for a determination of whether such training and experience counts for credentialing purposes;
 - (ii) With respect to National Maritime Center license evaluation, issuance, and examination, take all necessary and appropriate actions to provide for the waiver of fees for active duty service members, if a waiver is authorized and appropriate, and, if a waiver is not granted, take all necessary and appropriate actions to provide for the payment of fees for active duty service members by the applicable service to the fullest extent permitted by law;
 - (iii) Direct the applicable services to take all necessary and appropriate actions to pay for Transportation Worker Identification Credential cards for active duty service members pursuing or possessing a mariner credential;
 - (iv) Ensure that members of the applicable services who are to be discharged or released from active duty and who request certification or verification of sea service be provided such certification or verification no later than 1 month after discharge or release; and
 - (v) Ensure the applicable services have developed, or continue to operate, as appropriate, the online resource known as Credentialing Opportunities On-Line to support separating service members seeking information and assistance on merchant mariner credentialing.
- (b) The United States Committee on the Marine Transportation System shall pursue innovative ways to support merchant mariner credentialing, including through continuation of the Military to Mariner Initiative as appropriate, and shall provide a yearly status report on its efforts under the provisions of this order to the President through the White House Office of Trade and Manufacturing Policy.
- Sec. 4. General Provisions.** (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:
- (i) the authority granted by law to an executive department or agency, or the head thereof; or
 - (ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.
- (b) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.
- (c) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

DONALD J. TRUMP
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 4, 2019.



Welcome Aboard to these New Members of the AMMV

FAME ACADEMIA	GLENMOORE	PA
GERARD ACHENBACH	TRAVERSE CITY	MI
DOREEN BADEAUX	PORT AUTHUR	TX
RAYMOND BLANCHET	NORFOLK	VA
JOSEPH CASTEN	SOUTHBURY	CT
BRIAN CEPELAK	ST. JOHNS	FL
JONATHAN COLE	GLEN ROCK	NJ
JIM E. ENGELBRECHT	ROUSES POINT	NY
SCOTT GRAY	SAN PEDRO	CA
SARAH GUAN	SARATOGA	CA
DAVID HATCHER	BURKE	VA
LYNNETTE HERBINE	GLENMOORE	PA
EDDIE HUBBARD, JR	SPRING	TX
THOMAS JOHNSON	TAYLORSVILLE	NC
KYLE KNICKERBOCKER	IVORYTON	CT
KRISTA KORTUM	ELLENSBURG	WA
GAIL L. LAMONS	TAHLEQUAH	OK
BONNIE LANDINO	NEW HAVEN	CT
LUKE LORENZ	HERNDON	VA
VINCENT MALTESE	MONROE	MI
DONALD E. McFELEA	GLENDALE	CA
JAMES MONTELEONE	PHILLIPSBURG	NJ
SUSAN MULLEN	SEATTLE	WA
HENRY MULZAC	ROCKVILLE	MD
MICHAEL PARR	LONG BEACH	NY
STEVE SELLERS	WILLIAMSBURG	VA
CURTIS SMITH	LUCEDALE	MS
SANDRA SNYDER	JACKSONVILLE	FL
BRIAN STOUTT	ORION	IL
JOHN TEAGUE	KENTWOOD	MI
ALBERT VARHOLA	CINCINNATI	OH

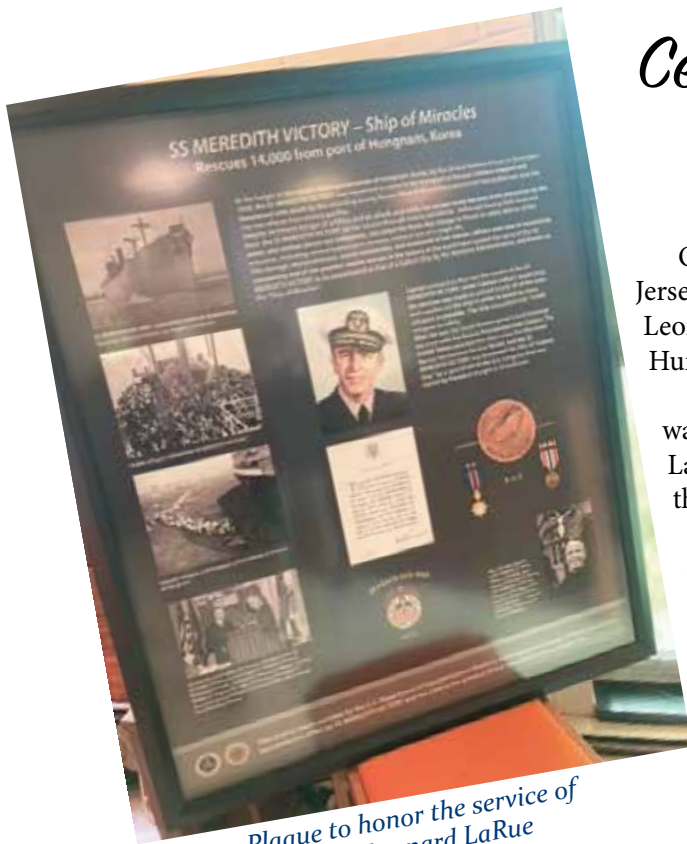
ON A VICTORY SHIP BOUND FOR SAIGON

Excerpt from "Written Works of Glen Chesnut"

The 12 to 4 watch,
it's 3 in the morning.
I finish pumping bilges
and secure the old steam pump.
It's time to make my round
back aft to check the steering gear.
I climb the ladder up through the fiddley,
all the way up to the main deck.
When I open the fiddley door,
hot engine air rushes
out behind me, pushing me
and the door out into the alleyway.
To close the door, I push with all my weight.
When the door snaps shut, the metallic whine
of the turbine drops to a muffled hum.
I lay a flashlight beam
across the darkened afterdeck, just long enough
to mark my path, then shut it off.
Through the dark, I make my way across the deck.
There is no moon, but Venus sparkles so bright and big
I can see how it could be taken for a UFO.
And the Milky Way shines
like a glowing gas cloud across the sky.
At the fantail, I go below to check the gear.
A large electric motor turns on and off,
making adjustments on the rudder:
hummm click hummm click.
I go back up to the fantail and stand
at the railing. I light a cigarette
and look over the side. The sea is black,
and upon it, the ship's wake
is a boiling, phosphorescent path.
There is something about it that is strangely
inviting. I think of Hart Crane
climbing over the fantail rail in midday
and jumping, never to come up.
I look at my watch. It's getting late.
I take a long drag on my cigarette,
give it a flip, and watch it arc
down to the water like a shooting star.
I turn on my flashlight
and walk with hurried steps toward midship.
It's time now to call out
the 4 to 8 watch.



Ceremony honors and remembers Capt. LaRue/Brother Marinus



Plaque to honor the service of
Capt. Leonard LaRue

On August 16th, a ceremony was held at the St. Paul's Abbey in New Jersey to posthumously recognize Brother Marinus, better known as Capt. Leonard LaRue, who commanded the *S/S Meredith Victory* during the Hungnam evacuation, saving the lives of 14,000 Korean refugees.

Representing the United States Maritime Administration (MARAD) was Dr. Shashi Kumar, who presented a large plaque to honor Capt. LaRue. AMMV National President Capt. Dru DiMattia then awarded the Convoy Cup medallion and certificate in remembrance of LaRue.

Other speakers included Apostleship of the Sea-USA (AOS-USA) President George McShea, Jr.; AMMV member Father Sinclair Oubre (also of AOS-USA) who has spearheaded efforts to canonize Brother Marinus;

Doreen Badeaux of AOS-USA; and religious members affiliated with the Abbey.

Attending via live stream were Burley Smith (Junior Third Mate aboard the *Meredith Victory* during the evacuation); author Philip Lacovara (*The Mariner and the Monk*, 2020); and reps from the AMMV organization.

At the 2017 AMMV National Convention, our membership voted in favor of an organizational resolution to support efforts to canonize

Brother Marinus/Capt. LaRue.

Following a lunch break, participants visited the gravesite of Brother Marinus.



Capt. Dru DiMattia is reunited with
one of his college professors,
Dr. Shashi Kumar



Capt. LaRue was also posthumously recognized with Con-
voy Cup honors



Gravesite of Brother Marinus

AMMV 2020/21 (34th) National Convention Report

Convention volunteers arrived between September 19th and 20th to perform set-up work. The Convention Committee included Capt. Dru DiMattia (Chairman), Lynn Kelly (Finance Chair), Dennis Kelly (Registration), Capt. Chris Edyvean, Steve Snyder, Sandy Snyder, Cheryl Muffoletto, Sheila Sova, Dennis Ng, and Laura Johnson Riddle. Convention prep work continued through the morning of the 21st.

Tuesday, September 21st

Convention registration and the Hospitality Room officially opened at 1 p.m. on Tuesday the 21st. At this time, the convention staff was still dealing



that evening. AMMV President Capt. DiMattia led the discussion, of which organizational issues were addressed, and DiMattia's proposed budget was voted upon and approved with no opposition. Other than these aforementioned activities, the evening simply provided a chance for old friends to reconnect and for several new members and attendees to become welcomed into the AMMV family.

Wednesday, September 22nd

The first MITAGS shiphandling simulator tours were given early in the morning. After breakfast, interested members attended the business meeting, while the Hospitality Room remained open for others.

The first item on the business meeting was a briefing on the status of AMMV's organizational status change from a 501(c)(19) to a 501(c)(3), of which we expect to receive word from the IRS in October. Next, membership recruitment and retainment were discussed in great deal. Volunteering to join the Membership Committee were Thomas Glen Hill, Christian Yuhaz, Steve Snyder, and Patti Holmes.

Various ways to recruit members were tossed around. Other topics included WWII U.S. Merchant Mariner compensation legislation (on which the Mills family met with Congressman Al Green and Vice President Kamala Harris immediately prior to the start of the convention), recognition/future veteran status for post-WWII Merchant Mariners, and the pending official ceremonies for issuance of the Merchant

Mariners of WWII Congressional Gold Medal. Finally, three resolutions were introduced and put up for an organizational vote. The first was a "Resolution to Honor United States Merchant Marine Veterans during National Memorial Day Concerts and other Veterans' Events". The resolution was written by Patrick Cotter and introduced by Sheila Sova; it passed with no opposition. (*Editor's note: Much of the content in this resolution exists in previously approved organizational resolutions.*) Next, Stanley Blumenthal introduced an untitled resolution regarding government subsidizing of "mega" cruise ships. The resolution was brought to a vote but failed. Mr. Blumenthal then introduced a second untitled resolution which urges eligible



Thomas Glen Hill presents artwork to Henry Mulzac, grandnephew of Capt. Hugh Mulzac

with late registrations and the last-minute surprise task of assigning seats (as requested by MCC) for the Congressional Gold Medal dinner! AMMV hired a caricature artist from Sketch Faces, DC to provide entertainment for our members, which turned out to be a big hit. Thomas Glenn Hill had a table set up at which he presented artwork to each of the WWII veterans. Shirley Knight, in her tradition of offering a special homemade contribution, set out gift bags for the women, which included COVID prevention items such as masks and disinfectant wipes. An informal Board of Directors meeting, with a quorum of National and Regional Officers in attendance, was held in the Hospitality Room



Doreen Badeaux (Apostleship of the Sea – USA)



(L to R): AMMV National Treasurer Dennis Kelly, convention volunteer Cheryl Muffoletto, WWII veteran Charles Montanaro, AMMV National Secretary Cindy Driscoll-Komlos

AMMV members to also join the American Legion. This resolution passed 8-5.

Following lunch, two busses were required to transport our large group to the Liberty Ship *John W. Brown*, at which a special ceremony was planned. As a bonus, although not open for tours, the *N/S Savannah* was moored across

from the *Brown*, allowing our group to have a close-up look at the historic nuclear-powered ship.

A short ceremony was conducted in a tented area dock-side. Colors were performed, followed by speakers, including Mike Schneider (USN retired; Project Liberty Ship), William P. Doyle (Executive Director of the Maryland Port Authority), Bill Van Loo (MEBA, retired), and Col. Alan Walden (Baltimore Navy League Council). A birthday tribute to WWII Merchant Marine veteran Howard Pfeifer (who is our Region # 3 Vice President) followed. The crowd sang *Happy Birthday*, and cake bites were passed around, compliments of AMMV. Afterwards, our group spent a couple hours exploring the many shipboard spaces aboard the *Brown*. Gift bags with informational literature about the *Brown* were given to our attendees.

Once back at the conference center and following dinner, our attendees were treated to a 90-minute show by America's Sweethearts, a group of three talented young ladies who provided 1940's and patriotic themed vocal entertainment.

Thursday, September 23rd

The morning opened in the Maritime Conference Center auditorium with Dave Yoho offering remarks to energize the crowd. William Geroux, author of *Mathews Men: Seven Brothers*

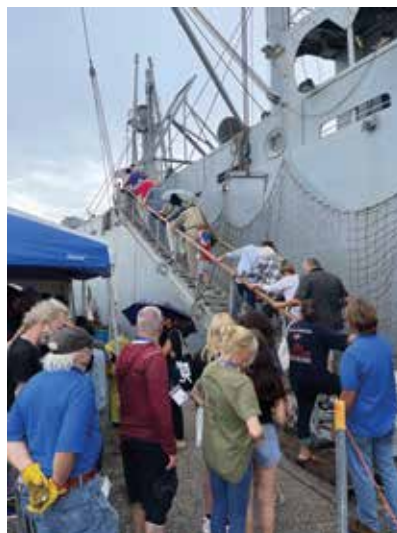
and the War Against Hitler's U-boats and *Ghost Ships of Archangel: The Arctic Voyage that Defied the Nazis* was the first speaker. Next was Dr. Salvatore Mercogliano, professor at Campbell University and former Merchant Marine officer, who offered a presentation titled, *The American Merchant Marine: The First Six Months*.

Following lunch break, our group resumed in the auditorium with the AMMV volunteer awards segment. Some of the awards were holdovers from the originally scheduled (March 2020) convention, while other awards were created for the 2021 event. In total, the following "Out-standing Volunteer" plaques were awarded: (In attendance) Capt. Dru DiMattia, Capt. Chris Edyvean, Steve & Sandy Snyder, Dennis & Lynn Kelly, Sheila Sova, Charles A. Mills, Laura Johnson Riddle; (not in attendance) Sindy Raymond, Michael Helbig, Jens Inge Egeland, Robert Lewis, and Ian Watts.

Next, AMMV member Thomas Glen Hill presented outreach specialist Sheila M. Sova with a special quilt from the Redbird Clan



Two buses were chartered to transport attendees to the *John W. Brown*



Attendees and guests climb the gangway of the *Brown*



WWII vet Stanley Blumenthal steers an aircraft carrier in the MITAGS shiphandling simulator



AMMV member David Holmes tries his hand on the simulator



Liberty Ship *John W. Brown*



America's Sweethearts entertain in the Chesapeake Dining Room on Wednesday the 22nd

of the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribe in Oklahoma. The quilt depicts the strong women of the tribe.

Captain Egil Vasstrand, Office of the Defense Attaché, Royal Norwegian Embassy, Washington, DC joined us to help facilitate the Convoy Cup awards/honors, which were given posthumously to WWII Merchant Marine veterans and accepted by family members or descendants in attendance,



Commander Derek Cowles, Assistant Naval Attaché, British Royal Navy, joined us for the entire day on Thursday the 23rd



Author William Geroux

and also to the living WWII veterans at the convention who had yet to receive such honors. Please see the full report on the Convoy Cup ceremony later in this magazine issue.

The final segment of the daytime program was a short speech by 3-time Emmy Award winning TV host and Best-Selling Author, Rita Cosby. She spoke of the story of her father, a Polish resistance fighter and POW, who was ultimately rescued by U.S. troops, and of her advocacy for the U.S. military and veterans.

Attendees began gathering for our themed "Congressional Gold Medal" reception dinner at about 5:00 p.m.

AMMV National Office Administrator Lynn Kelly, along with Sandra Barth, manned the satellite registration table to check-in local attendees. Other Convention Committee volunteers handled last minute tasks right up until the start of the dinner. During the gathering period, America's Sweethearts performed on the stage. Our caricature artist returned to "draw" more people. Along the perimeters of the room could be found many maritime related displays, and a cash bar was open. Perhaps the most visual element was the outstanding table decoration work done by the committee volunteers. Also, two large bouquets

of floral arrangements were positioned near the podium. Staged in the shadows were the large photos depicting the Merchant Mariners of WWII Congressional Gold Medal selected designs, which were covered with a black cloth until later in the program. Maritime TV began live streaming the event shortly after 5 p.m. Approximately 200 individuals attended the dinner!

Master of Ceremonies, Capt. Dru DiMattia, opened the dinner event by introducing the 20 WWII Merchant



Steve & Sandy Snyder receive an "Out-standing Volunteer" plaque

Mariners in attendance, offering a brief bio for each while their pictures were displayed on the projection screens. Next was the Color Guard and a video performance of the *Star-Spangled Banner* by Dr. Willie Jolly. An invocation by AMMV's Chaplain, WWII veteran Bob Ross followed, then America's Sweethearts returned to the stage to perform, *Heave Ho, My Lads!*

As dinner was served, Congressional videos were played from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Rep. Al Green, Senator Lisa Murkowski, Rep. Garamendi, and Rep. Jamie Raskin. These video

clips thanked our veterans for their service, and wished AMMV a successful convention.

Singer/entertainer Tomaczek Bednarek took to the stage and sang three patriotic songs. He briefly spoke about autism, telling the

story of the autistic child Joey Lowenstein, whose father was a WWII Navy veteran.

The America's Sweetheart performers then returned one final time to sing *Happy Birthday* collectively to all of our WWII Merchant Mariner veterans. A special cake with the Merchant Marine flag was brought out to commemorate



Tom Schmidt accepts Convoy Cup honors for his late father, John T. "Jack" Schmidt

our heroes.

The first speaker was Col. Alan Walden of the Baltimore Navy League Council. Walden extolled the value of the U.S. Merchant Marine and explained that the Navy League, in general, should do more to recognize this branch of the sea services.

The next segment was the official signing for Great Lakes Maritime Academy's acceptance into the "Military to Maritime" program for Third Assistant Engineer training. RADM Jerry Achenbach, GLMA Superintendent, was on hand with USCG National Maritime Center Commanding Officer Capt. Clare to facilitate the signing.



Shirley Knight (left) and Veda Handy at the CGM dinner

Several Mulzac family members were in attendance. Opening this segment was James Patti of the Maritime Institute of Research and Industrial Development (MIRAID). Patti spoke of Capt. Mulzac's achievements in both the maritime industry and also in the civil rights movement. Patti then introduced Jeremy Hope (Vice President, Offshore Gulf Ports & Government Contracts, International Organization of Masters, Mates, and Pilots), who spoke about racism practiced within the MMP union many decades ago. Hope, on behalf of MMP, offered a heartfelt apology to the Mulzac family for the discrimination and hardships dealt to



Rita Cosby speaks to our audience

family. Henry Mulzac, grandnephew of Capt. Mulzac, thanked those in attendance for honoring the late shipmaster. Capt. Marcus then spoke a bit more on the same topics, and also spoke of the role of unionized U.S. Merchant Mariners in WWII. He then called up Capt. Robert Cook, President of the Organization of Black Maritime Graduates, who briefly spoke about this group. Henry Mulzac said a few more words, then the Mulzac family was presented a plaque collectively from the maritime industry. For the second half of the Mulzac tribute, Kevin Tokarski (Associate Administrator for Strategic Sealift, MARAD) was introduced. He presented a shadow box with all of Capt. Hugh Mulzac's service medals to the Mulzac family. Accepting the shadow box was Hugh Mulzac III, grandson of the late captain, who preceded to say a few words to the audience.

To begin the next segment, former U.S. Maritime Administrator Mark. H. Buzby was introduced. RADM Buzby touched upon a few topics, then introduced Acting Maritime Administrator Lucinda Lessley.

Ms. Lessley spoke of the duties and

Capt. Mulzac so many decades ago. The Mulzac family was then asked to come to the podium, along with MMP President Capt. Don Marcus and retired Maryland ship pilot, maritime artist Capt. Brian Hope. A painting of Capt. Mulzac's ship, the Liberty Ship S/S Booker T. Washington, painted by Capt. Hope, was

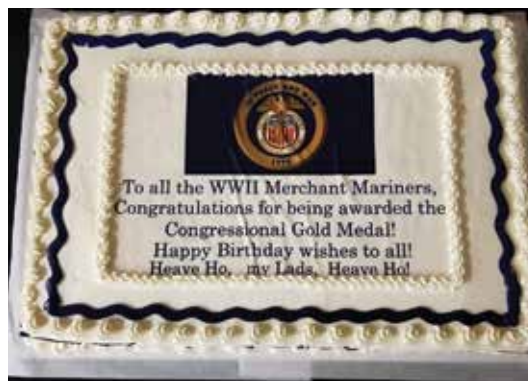
offered to the Mulzac



James Patti (President, MARAID) leads off with the tribute to Capt. Hugh Mulzac

functions of MARAD, then presided over the unveiling of the selected designs (front and back) of the Merchant Mariners of WWII Congressional Gold Medal. Attendees were instructed prior to the unveiling that cameras and video recording would not be permitted, as various government entities do not wish for the designs to be public until after the official CGM ceremony, which is projected to take place in January. The original introduction of the Merchant Mariners of WWII Congressional Gold Medal Act legislation was back in the 114th Congress on July 9, 2015. It was a heartfelt experience for the AMMV members and supporters in the room to finally see the chosen design; so many of our members had worked extremely hard to arrive at this moment!

For the next segment, MC Capt. DiMatia called up Past AMMV President Capt. Chris Edyvean, and "Storm the Hill" participants Sheila M. Sova and Laura Johnson Riddle, for the purpose of presenting the MMP union



A Merchant Marine birthday cake is presented for all of the 20 WWII veterans in attendance

and MITAGS school with appreciation plaques from AMMV. MMP and MITAGS supported our Storm the Hill group of WWII veterans and children of WWII vets on four separate occasions



Mulzac family members admire Capt. Brian Hope's painting of the Booker T. Washington

(2015 & 2017-19), in which rooms, meals, and transportation to/from DC were provided to our team members. AMMV's Storm the Hill efforts are what generated the initial visibility, traction, and momentum which eventually led to passage of the CGM legislation. Capt. Don Marcus accepted for MMP and Mike Rodriguez accepted on behalf of MITAGS.

Another presentation followed. Adam Vokac, President of the Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association (MEBA) came up to the podium. Speaking on behalf of the maritime industry, Vokac presented the AMMV organization with the *American Maritime*

Heroes Award. This attractive award is a plaque on a ship's wheel with the inscription, *Representing the heroic World War II Merchant Mariners, honored with the Congressional Gold Medal, by: American Maritime Partnership; American Maritime Officers; Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association; Masters, Mates, & Pilots; Seafarers International Union*. Capt. Dru DiMattia accepted the award on behalf of the AMMV organization.

Finally, Rita Cosby was introduced. She spoke briefly of her book *Quiet Hero* about her father's experiences in WWII.

Then she introduced our Keynote Speaker, WWII Merchant Mariner and famous motivational speaker/businessman, Dave Yoho.

Mr. Yoho quickly captured the full attention of the crowd, as he described his time in the WWII Merchant Marine. He proceeded to deliver an energizing, emotional, and fulfilling speech. His presentation concluded with speaking the words to *The Impossible Dream*,

as music played softly in the background. At the end of his presentation, the lights went dark. Several seconds later the room lit back up, as Yoho re-emerged draped in the American flag. He challenged the audience with the words, "Tell them about us. We gave up our yesterdays for your tomorrows." The crowd, completely engaged and absorbed in Mr. Yoho's speech, responded with a standing ovation.

However, there were still a couple more items. For the 50/50 raffle, the ticket was drawn by the oldest man in the room, 101-year-old Charles A. Mills, with the winning ticket belonging to Capt.

Tom Stapleton. The prize was \$350.

The final agenda item was the presentation of the *Harvey-Wichita Awards*, named after AMMV President Emeritus A.J. Wichita (2007-11) and President Emeritus Morris Harvey (2011-15). Both men have "crossed the bar", but the award dates back to the 2017 Reno convention in which both were present to learn that a new annual top-tier award had been started in their honor. The 2021 recipient in the post-WWII category was Capt. Chris Edyvean (Past National President,



Dave Yoho, Keynote Speaker

current Region # 5 VP, and AMMV News Editor). In the WWII member category, the honor went to Dave Yoho.

The Congressional Gold Medal dinner can be viewed by segment on the Maritime TV website at:

<https://www.maritimetv.com/Events/AMMV-CONGRESSIONAL-GOLD-MEDAL-DINNER>

Afterwards, Rita Cosby aired her late-night radio program (Rita Cosby Live 77WABC) live from the Maritime Conference Center. Her guests included Capt. Richard Phillips, Dave Yoho, and Charles A. Mills. Ms. Cosby's talk show programs are archived on the radio website at:

<https://wabcradio.com/podcast/rita-cosby/>

Following the CGM dinner, the Hospitality Room was opened and remained busy into the wee hours of Friday morning!

Friday, September 24th

Another round of MITAGS shiphandling simulator tours were offered on this morning. Breakfast marked the official end of the 2020/21 convention. It was decided at the business sessions that the next AMMV National Convention would return to Reno. A timeline for such is TBD.



Capt. Dru DiMattia accepts the American Maritime Heroes Award on behalf of AMMV, which was presented by MEBA President Adam Vokac



After convention clean-up, Steve Snyder found a local memorial which includes the U.S. Merchant Marine, and donated the floral arrangements which AMMV had purchased for the CGM dinner.

APPROVED RESOLUTIONS

from 2020/21 (34th) AMMV National Convention business sessions

Resolution to Honor United States Merchant Marine Veterans During National Memorial Day Concerts and Other Veterans' Events

(Introduced by Sheila Sova, AMMV National Vice President, unanimously approved)

Whereas President Joseph R. Biden Jr. proclaimed on National Maritime Day, May 21, 2021, "...Called the 'fourth arm of defense' by President Franklin D. Roosevelt during World War II, the Merchant Marine established itself as a cornerstone of sealift support for our Armed Forces, sailing through theaters of war to deliver troops and supplies while keeping vital ocean supply lines operating. The perseverance and dedication of the Merchant Marine contributed to the Allied victory even as they suffered one of the highest casualty rates of any of our military services...";

Whereas the United States Merchant Marine who served during World War II, from December 7, 1941, through August 15, 1945, were awarded veteran status in 1988;

Whereas the United States Merchant Marine are honored at the National World War II Memorial that was dedicated on the National Mall in Washington, DC on May 29, 2004;

Whereas the National World War II Museum, in New Orleans, LA, officially designated under Public Law 108-87, contains substantial historical information and dedicated exhibits documenting the valor, courage, sacrifice, and service of the United States Merchant Marine during World War II;

Whereas United States Merchant Marine veterans of World War II were awarded a Congressional Gold Medal on March 13, 2020, under Public Law 116-125;

Whereas the United States Merchant Marine flag was adopted on May 24, 1994, and unveiled by Maritime Administrator Albert J. Herberger;

Whereas the official song of the United States Merchant Marine is "Heave Ho! My Lads, Heave Ho!" (words and music by LTJG Jack Lawrence, United States Maritime Service, 1943);

Whereas the National Memorial Day Concert, produced by Capital Concerts and televised nationally by the Public Broadcasting Service, honors our Nation's veterans, service men and women and their families every year.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by members of the American Merchant Marine Veterans assembled to:

Obtain formal written agreement from United States Government's co-sponsoring agencies and senior executives of the Public Broadcasting Service and Capital Concerts Inc. to include the presentation of the United States Merchant Marine flag and singing of the United States Merchant Marine theme song during the appropriate segment of the 2022 National Memorial Day Concert and all future Memorial Day concerts televised by the Public Broadcasting Service;

Request that the United States Merchant Marine flag shall be flown at every national, state, and local military monument and alongside the colors of our Nation's flag and the colors of

our Nation's armed forces, especially during national events honoring United States veterans, including Maritime Day, Memorial Day, and Veterans Day;

Request that the official United States Merchant Marine song, "Heave Ho! My Lads, Heave Ho" shall be played at national and public celebrations for veterans, including Maritime Day, Memorial Day, and Veterans Day; and

Request that the United States Merchant Marine flag be flown on all of our Nation's military and flagged merchant vessels during national veterans' events, including Maritime Day, Memorial Day, and Veterans Day.

This resolution was passed on the 22nd day of September 2021 by voting members of the American Merchant Marine Veterans organization, assembled for their 2020/21 (34th) National Convention in Linthicum Heights, MD.

Untitled Resolution

(Submitted by Stanley Blumenthal, approved 8-5)

Whereas: Our WWII Merchant Mariner members are in their 90's and mostly "Members at Large" (MAL) with no monthly Chapters to attend as they did before;

Whereas: It would be a shame for WWII Merchant Mariners not to take advantage of The American Legions' unique invitation to join their organization where they could bring up matters concerning the Merchant Marine and a key place to bring our magazines;

Whereas: Assuming most Posts are like mine, we meet one a month at 7 p.m., have an invited speaker on a variety of topics, and then discuss A.L. matters after which a free dinner is served, brought in by members and their wives. In between meetings they sometimes have a luncheon at any of a number of restaurants. Ruth and I looked forward to going to their nearby meetings;

Whereas: The American Legion is the oldest, largest, most resilient veterans' organization, also involved in civil matters such as aid to the homeless, anti-suicide, little league, etc. and therefore the most powerful in terms of legislation influence, was founded just after the Great War in 1919 with now over 12,000 Posts, which are equivalent of our Chapters;

Whereas: Per their Resolution 172 in 2004 on the reverse side, the A.L. had fully supported the Merchant Marine, later they ignored us and didn't even say a word about the Congressional Medal we were recently awarded, which I say was due to the few Merchant Marine members they had;

Whereas: Belonging to two great Veterans' Organizations is better than belonging to just one such great organization;

Now, therefore: This AMMV 2020/21 National Convention on September 21st - 24th, 2021 in Linthicum Heights, Maryland, goes on record urging those members who qualify, including those who had been in the armed service, to join The American Legion without resigning from the AMMV so that we could help one another's campaigns.



Massachusetts Legionnaires make Buddy Checks in Phoenix

By Lisa M. Borges, Department of Massachusetts photographer; reprinted with permission.

Four Legionnaires from Massachusetts checked in on their comrades, World War II Merchant Marines and a Naval Armed Guard, at an assisted living facility while in Phoenix last month for The American Legion's 102nd national convention.



Lisa Borges

Department of Massachusetts District 6 Finance Officer Bob Lewis, a Navy veteran and Merchant Marine, organized the Buddy Checks. He conducted the Buddy Checks along with three other Massachusetts Legionnaires – Gerald Messier, a member of Acushnet Post 265 and a World War II Army veteran; past Department of Massachusetts commander and Navy Korean War veteran Fred White; and myself, a Navy veteran.

Buddy Checks have been placed on the forefront for The American Legion and heightened because of the COVID-19 pandemic and for suicide prevention efforts.

In his final remarks as American Legion national commander, James W. "Bill" Oxford asked national convention delegates, "What if the veteran you contacted was contemplating suicide and he or she received your call? You could make a life-or-death difference. You could be the call that convinces that veteran that he is valued and appreciated. You could be the call that convinces her there is a community of veterans, us, called the American Legion."

We did offer assistance and spent valuable time listening to each veteran as they talked about their time of service.



William Roscher (third from left) (WWII MM Radio Officer & retired Army Colonel)

Lewis became aware through the American Merchant Marine Veterans (AMMV), of which he is a member, that Merchant Marines were not treated as veterans even though they received the status by the federal government in 1988. It took time for some VA medical centers to recognize them



(Standing L to R): Fred White (Past Department of Massachusetts Commander & Navy Korean War veteran), William Perman (WWII Merchant Mariner), Robert Lewis (AMMV Veterans Affairs Chairman); (Sitting L to R): Bud Roberts (WWII Navy Armed Guard), Gerald Messier (WWII Army veteran)

as veterans, which meant many Merchant Marines could not get the care they needed through the federal government.

"My goal was to check in with them and ask, 'Is the VA taking care of you?'" said Lewis. He also asked the veterans if their needs were being met or if they needed anything.

At the assisted living facility in Scottsdale, Ariz., we visited two World War II veterans – William Perman, a Merchant Marine, and Bud Roberts, who was in the Naval Armed Guard, a service branch of the Navy that operated gunnery on allied merchant ships protecting them from surface, submarine and air attacks.

Perman's response to Lewis's question was that it had gotten much better since the national news story about the Phoenix VA broke in 2014. The Phoenix VA was highlighted in the news because of a scandal of long wait times for veterans, and the VA was also accused of keeping a secret waitlist.

Roberts, who was hard of hearing, seemed to appreciate our visit but made it clear that he was not a hero despite his service during World War II as a gunner. The group of four Legionnaires disagreed as he is a member of the Greatest

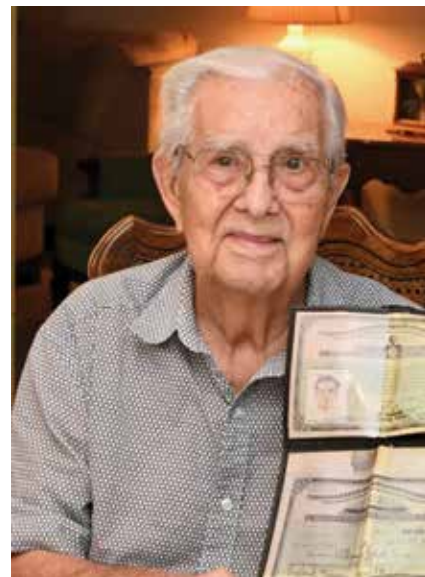
Generation.

The next visit was with William Roscher, who joined the military at 16 and fell in love with being a Merchant Marine. He served as a radio operator from 1945 to 1948. Then he joined the Army from 1949 to 1974 and retired as a colonel.

The last visit was with Bill Keim. He had unusual stories of transporting horses and sulfur on his ship in support of the war effort; both of which had their challenges he said. He shared a letter that he sent to the members of the Desert Mariners American Merchant Marine Veterans to announce the disbanding of their chapter after 30 years. It was a difficult decision for him but was necessary because membership declined as members aged, faced poor health, and had died.

We also met with Norman Palmer, who was very involved in the Desert Chapter AMMV with Keim until the chapter dissolved.

At the end of the visits, we felt that we were lucky to be a part of something so unique and that we were able to offer assistance. It turned out that this time, the World War II veterans just wanted to share their memories. The Buddy Checks provided a sense of camaraderie with each other and the World War II Merchant Marines. And each veteran that we visited was presented with an award, The American Legion Certificate of Honor.



Keim with Merchant Mariner documentation



William Keim (third from left) (WWII Merchant Mariner), with his visitors



Norman Palmer (WWII Merchant Mariner)



William Perman holds an expired Merchant Mariner's Document



Fred White

Never Take “No” for An Answer

Every U.S. Merchant Marine (USMM) veteran who served honorably during peace time operations or armed conflicts deserves to be recognized at events and on monuments praising valor, courage, and sacrifice and service of our Nation's veterans. The USMM flag says it all - “In Peace and War.”

I spent many years trying to convince my father, the late Edward P. Cotter, Jr., that his service as a Warrant Officer/ Radio Operator in the U.S. Maritime

Service (USMS) contributed to the ultimate defeat of Japan in World War II (WWII). The job of convincing my father that he was a valued member of our Nation's victorious team was hampered by the lack of recognition for USMM veterans he experienced for many years after the war.

Ed's appreciation for his service began to change when USMM veterans of WWII received veterans' status in 1988, and when the USMM were honored at the National WWII Memorial in Washington, DC. Though my father was not able to attend the 2004 dedication ceremony at the WWII Memorial, I attended the celebration in his place. My wife accompanied me to honor her father who was a decorated 20-year U.S. Army veteran of WWII and the Korean War.

I discovered the details of my father's WWII service record because I helped him obtain a fourth service award, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, from the Department of Transportation's (DOT) Maritime Administration (MARAD) in 2002. Through online research, I found references to the U.S. Naval Armed Guard logs for the *SS Ocala Victory*, the ship my father served on, at the National Archives in San Bruno, CA. I sent selected excerpts of the logs and a copy of my father's DD 214 form to MARAD with a request to award him the ribbon he earned. Copies of the logs, showing the *SS Ocala Victory* operated in Philippine waters more than 30 days, were critical for MARAD's decision to award Ed the Philippine Liberation Ribbon and to correct his DD 214. As you might imagine, “Sparks”, as he was known aboard ship, was impressed with his eldest son's detective work.

After receiving the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, my father told me some highlights about his USMS service. In 1944, Ed was 17 when he graduated from high school, and he wanted to contribute to the WWII effort. To achieve his

goal, Ed joined the USMS in September 1944. After turning 18 and completing basic training, he attended the USMS Hoffman Island Radio School in Sheepshead Bay, NY

where he graduated with a certification as a 2nd Class Radio and Telegraph Operator.

Ed's father, the late Edward P. Cotter, Sr., worked for the Fred Olsen Line shipping company. Also, Ed Senior knew some of the government staff at the recently created War Shipping

Administration. Through his connections, Ed Senior got Ed Junior a billet on a United Fruit Company ship that was scheduled to transport goods to and from ports in the U.S. and ports in Central and South America. Ed Senior did not want his only child to be in harm's way during the war.

Ed Junior decided to heck with that plan. He wanted to get involved in the war, so he signed up to be a 2nd Assistant Radio Operator on the *SS Ocala Victory*. Against his parents' wishes, Ed Junior shipped out in April 1945 on a voyage from New Orleans through the Panama Canal to rendezvous with other merchant ships at the Palau Islands Command Anchorage. Ed Junior was one of three radio operators standing watch onboard the ship. Unknown to Sparks, until the ship was underway to Panama, the *SS Ocala Victory* carried thousands of tons of ammunition.

The *SS Ocala Victory* departed Palau with an armed convoy of merchant ships bound for Luzon Island, Republic of the Philippines. For several weeks, Ed's ship made stops on the west coast of Luzon to offload ammunition. I remember my father telling me that he walked the decks of the *SS Ocala Victory* at night with his off-duty shipmates. He said they could see distant flashes and hear thunderous artillery fire as U.S. and allied liberation forces fought fierce battles with occupying Japanese forces on the island. Those sights and sounds must have been a serious reality check for a teenage radio officer onboard a ship in the Pacific Theater of WWII thousands of miles from home.

With the goods delivered successfully, the *SS Ocala Victory* departed Manila for the United States. After the ship docked in San Francisco, Warrant Officer Sparks Cotter was discharged in July 1945. His honorable discharge qualified 18-year-old Edward P. Cotter, Jr. as a USMM veteran of WWII.



SS Ocala Victory, probably docked in San Francisco, CA

After the dedication of the National WWII memorial, I gave my father two shadow boxes to commemorate his USMS service. One box contained official USMS uniform items, including service medals and bars, a pair of Warrant Officer/Radio Officer shoulder boards, officer's cap and collar insignias, an honorable service button, a USMM emblem, and a J-37 telegraph key similar to the one he used aboard the SS *Ocala Victory*. The other box contained commemorative items for USMM veterans from WWII. When he proudly hung those shadow boxes on the wall of his home, I knew I had convinced my father that he was a valued member of our Nation's victorious WWII team.

From my research into my father's service, I felt it was unfortunate that thousands of USMM veterans were not recognized during national veterans' celebrations. After viewing the 2014 National Memorial Day Concert on television, I told my father I was going to seek recognition of USMM WWII veterans for the next concert. He was impressed with my goal, but he was skeptical about whether I would succeed. I reminded him I would never take "No" for an answer.

In pursuit of my goal, I contacted the executive producer for the National Memorial Day Concert at Capital Concerts Inc. (CCI) and the two co-hosts for the concert. In May 2014, I received polite responses indicating none of the people I contacted had the ability to include recognition of the USMM in the next concert. The "No" answer left me wondering who else I should contact.

In 2015, my father passed away in Connecticut. The burial ceremony at the Veterans Cemetery in Middletown, CT honored his service in the USMS and gave our family peace. When I talked to the CT Cemetery and Memorial Services office about his headstone, they said my father's rank could not be engraved on his headstone because his DD 214 did not show his rank as a warrant officer. Unbelievable! Without hesitation, I wrote a letter to the U.S. Coast Guard's (USCG) National Maritime Center seeking their agreement that my father was a USMS warrant officer. I enclosed Ed's USMS portrait photograph showing his warrant officer sleeve stripe, a copy of his recently corrected DD 214, and a copy of the 1944 Officers' Handbook, which shows the sleeve stripe for a warrant officer.

The USCG agreed with my request and revised my father's DD 214, confirming Ed was indeed a Warrant Officer/Radio Officer. I provided his revised DD 214 to the CT Cemetery and Memorial Services office. They promptly approved engraving Ed's headstone with "Warrant Ofc". Correcting my father's rank was another victory with the powers that be.

As all American Merchant Marine Veterans (AMMV) members know, the U.S. Congress awarded USMM WWII veterans a Congressional Gold Medal in March 2020. That significant award propelled me into renewed determination to honor USMM veterans, even though my father had passed away. The Congressional Gold Medal was the perfect high-level reason to initiate a second round of requests to honor USMM veterans.

Encouraged by the success of my two previous requests, I decided to go all the way to the top in the Department of Defense (DOD). In May 2020, I sent a letter to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. I received a response from the Chief of the Administrative Support Branch saying "...Thank you for your family's service during World War II, and for your concern that all veterans who

sacrificed their lives are recognized, a principle shared by the Joint Staff." I was advised to contact DOT MARAD to obtain the agency's approval to recognize USMM veterans during the National Memorial Day Concert.

Buoyed by the statement that the Joint Staff shared my interest in recognizing veterans, I sent a letter to the director of MARAD's Office of Congressional and Public Affairs in August 2020. A MARAD Public Affairs Officer replied in September 2020, saying "Thank you for bringing this error to our attention. I assure you that the Maritime Administration shares your desire to ensure that the U.S. Merchant

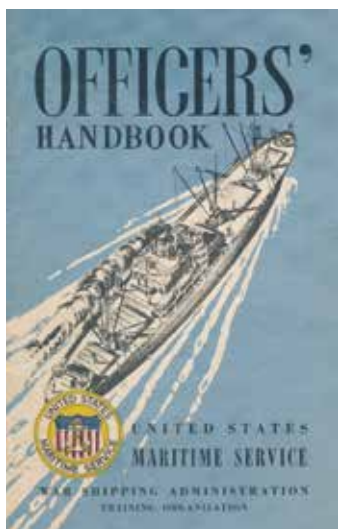
Marine, as the fourth arm of our Nation's defense, is recognized alongside other services at national events." I knew I hit the jackpot by contacting MARAD.

I decided to find a champion of veterans' rights to bring Federal agencies and television producers together for a negotiated agreement to honor the USMM veterans at the next concert and beyond. In November 2020, I reached out to Rep. Jimmy Panetta who is my representative in Congress and a strong champion of veterans' rights. In April 2021, Rep. Panetta's DOD Liaison took on the outreach activity with DOD, DOT, MARAD, PBS, and CCI. In May 2021, the MARAD PAO informed Rep. Panetta's DOD Liaison she obtained approval from senior leaders at DOT and MARAD for the recognition of USMM veterans at the National Memorial Day Concert.

On May 27, 2021, Rep. Panetta's DOD Liaison obtained formal written approval from DOD to display the USMM flag and sing the theme song at the National Memorial Day Concert. That same day, he had a discussion with executives from PBS and CCI about honoring USMM veterans at the concert. The executives gave positive support to recognize USMM veterans during future concerts beginning in



Patch for USMS Training Station in Sheepshead Bay, NY where the Hoffman Island Radio School was located



Cover of the 1944 U.S. Maritime Service Officers' Handbook

2022. Getting to “Yes” took quite some time and plenty of determination.

After receiving positive news from Rep. Panetta’s office and MARAD, I contacted Sheila Sova, newly elected Vice President of AMMV. I let her know about the likelihood that the USMM flag and theme song (*Heave Ho! My Lads, Heave Ho!*) would be featured, along with the colors and theme songs of the five U.S. armed forces, during the 2022 National Memorial Day Concert. Sheila was thrilled such an honor was being considered.

In August 2021, I talked to Sheila about the possibility of AMMV sending a letter to Rep. Panetta asking for his

personal involvement to obtain a written agreement from PBS and CCI to display the USMM flag and sing the theme song. We decided it was time to engage AMMV senior leaders and perhaps high-level governmental and maritime industry representatives attending AMMV’s 2021 National Convention in Linthicum Heights, MD. On August 24, 2021, AMMV National President Capt. Dru DiMattia sent a letter to Rep. Panetta asking for his personal leadership to honor USMM veterans. Capt. DiMattia asked Rep. Panetta to get the agreement over the finish line.

I invite all AMMV members, USMM/USMS veterans, active duty USMM Merchant Mariners, USMM Academy faculty and cadets, and their families to make sure the USMM flag and song are honored during the 2022 National Memorial Day Concert. I am proud to honor my father’s duty to our country every day, as a USMM/USMS veteran!

dit-dit-dit-dah-dit-dah (End of Transmission)

Contact Information:

Patrick Cotter, AMMV Member at Large
coolenvconsulting@gmail.com



More on the Mulzacs...

While the story of Capt. Hugh Mulzac is popular in WWII maritime history, it is not so well known that other Mulzac family members also served in the U.S. Merchant Marine during the Second World War.



James Ira Mulzac

Capt. Hugh’s youngest brother, James Ira Mulzac, was serving on the *SS Santore* when the vessel struck an enemy mine (laid by *U-701*) near the Chesapeake Bay entrance on 6/17/1942. James and 42 others survived; three were killed. James Mulzac’s grandson, Henry Mulzac, was the “family coordinator” for the group of Mulzacs who attended the



Allister L. Mulzac

AMMV 2020/21 National Convention.

In addition, Allister L. Mulzac, nephew of Capt. Hugh Mulzac, was also a WWII U.S. Merchant Mariner, serving from 1941-45. He participated in Operation Gooseberry, having steered the Liberty Ship *James Iredell*, which was positioned in Gooseberry #2 at Omaha Beach.

All three Mulzac WWII mariner veterans posthumously received Convoy Cup honors at the convention, and the descendants were presented with a U.S. Merchant Marine flag.



SS Santore (photo credit: uboat.net)

AMMV represented at 9/11 “Boatlift” remembrance event



SUNY Maritime Color Guard

On September 10th, Dennis Ng, President of the AMMV Dennis A. Roland Chapter, attended the 20th anniversary “Boatlift” tribute at Battery Place in Lower Manhattan. Following are the highlights from this event:

On September 10, 2021 at 1:00 P.M., the New York Council Navy League, in partnership with operators and nonprofit supporters of the Port of New York and New Jersey, held a 20th Anniversary Tribute at New York City’s Battery Park in honor of the 9/11 Boatlift.

The tribute recognized the heroes on September 11,

2001 who assisted in the world’s largest maritime evacuation in history.

Under the coordination of the United States Coast Guard, a convoy of rescue vessels of over 100 passenger ferries, merchant ships, tugboats, and private boats, with over 600 sailors, moved an estimated 500,000 people out of Manhattan after all the bridges and tunnels connecting the city had been closed.

The 9/11 Boatlift has become the largest water evacuation in history. In 9 hours, they managed to evacuate more people than “Operation Dynamo” did at Dunkirk in 1940, an event that saved 340,000 men, but took over a week to complete. The cost was high too; more than half of the sailors at the boatlift have had to deal with a 9/11 related health issues due to exposure to toxic fumes.

The speakers were United States Senator, Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand; retired USCG Rear Admiral Rick Larabee, former Director of Port Commerce at the Port Authority of NY/NJ; and Admiral Karl Schultz, Commandant of the Coast Guard.

At the closing of the tribute, Rev. Andrew Dietsche, Episcopal Bishop of NY; Rev. Kristen Miles, Assoc. Rector, Trinity Church; Rev. Mark Nestehutt, President of Seamen’s Church Institute; Capt. Thomas Walcott, Chaplain, USCG; and Lt. Clay Erdinger, USN Chaplain of the USS New York; blessed the ships in the vessel procession, and New York City’s fireboats saluted all the vessels with their water cannons spraying water of red, white, and blue.

In addition, New York’s ABC Channel 7 Eyewitness News covered the event, which is viewable from this link: <https://abc7ny.com/9-11-boat-procession-commemorates-history-largest-water-evacuation/11012717/>



Senator Kristen Gillibrand



Master of Ceremonies Capt. John Bowie



Hospitality Room Fun!



Scrapbook memorabilia of Edward R. Johnson



Karyn Holm (left) and Paul Papamarcos (both of Midwest Chapter) enjoy some time in Baltimore



WWII veteran Ed Laughton enjoys his first AMMV National Convention



Yvette Miles takes her turn with the caricature artist



(L to R): Quinten Othello Echard, Lindsay Howell, and WWII veteran Jim Lindsey





Kimberly Jones and Charles A. Mills show off their caricature sketches



WWII veteran Gerard Driscoll enjoys a cold Yuengling



The beautiful women of the Mulzac family



WWII veteran William Balabanow



WWII veteran Charlie Montanaro interacts with a "virtual" presentation of Heave Ho from Sally Langwah



Family of Charles A. Mills, sporting their custom-made masks to honor Charles

John W. Brown Trip



(L to R): Charles A. Mills, Willian P. Doyle (Executive Director of the Maryland Port Authority), and Eddie Pascale



WWII veteran Eddie Pascale to his family



WWII veteran George Shaw in the lower engine room of the Brown



Nayah Edyvean sports her new WWII Navy Armed Guard jacket, purchased at the gift shop



Charles A. Mills and Bill Van Loo (MEBA, retired)



Mulzac photo at Captain Hu American s Liberty S



...s the Brown with



Color Guard dockside at Brown, prior to guest speakers



Sandra Barth at the helm of the John W. Brown



WWII veteran Harold Wellington gets a little love from the camera. His good friend, Kenneth Corn of WLOS TV (ABC), thoroughly documented Wellington's participation at the convention.



Nuclear ship Savannah



Family members pose for a photo on board the Brown. In WWII, Hugh Mulzac, the first African-American shipmaster, commanded the ship Booker T. Washington.



WWII veteran Fame Academia and daughter Lynette prior to boarding the bus to the Brown



Ann Cornwall aboard the Brown

CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL DINNER



America's Sweethearts returned to provide entertainment at the CGM dinner. Following the convention, Capt. DiMattia received the following correspondence:

Hi Dru! Now that you've had a weekend to decompress, I just wanted to say a huge thank you for having us last week. I hope you are feeling the success of it all! We had such a great time, and it was such a special event to be a part of. That first night was something I will personally never forget.

All of our best to you and yours.

Warmly,

Carly Kincannon

Founder, America's Sweethearts



WWII Merchant Marine veterans Stanley Blumenthal (left) and Eddie Pascale pose with the America's Sweethearts singers.



Dave Yoho



Past National President Capt. Chris Edyvean takes to the podium to present MMP & MITAGS with appreciation plaques from AMMV (photo credit: Seafarers International Union)



Jeremy Hope (MMP) addresses the crowd and speaks to the Mulzac family members



(L to R): James Patti (President, MARAID), Capt. Don Marcus (President, IOMMP), Capt. Robert Cook (President, Organization of Black Maritime Graduates), Henry Mulzac (Grandnephew of Capt. Hugh Mulzac)



Retired Bosun Ken Delancey of AMMV High Rollers Chapter (photo credit: Seafarers International Union)



In the forefront of this crowd are (L to R) Sheila Sova, Rita Cosby, and Veda Handy



Scott Nowak and 96-year-old WWII vet Howard Pfeifer, both of Three Rivers Chapter



(L to R): Sandra Barth, Ken Delancey, Cynthia Bledsoe, all of AMMV High Rollers Chapter





USCG NMC Commanding Officer Capt. Clare (left) and Great Lakes Maritime Academy Superintendent RADM Gerard Achenbach sign the approval for the academy's participation in the "Military to Maritime" program



WWII Merchant Mariner Eddie Pascale with Capt. Richard Phillips



Terry Edyvean and wife, Nayah



101-year-old Charles A. Mills with Acting Maritime Administrator Lucinda Lessley



Accepting appreciation plaques from AMMV for Storm the Hill support are Capt. Don Marcus of MMP (left), and Mike Rodriguez of MITAGS



Entertainer/veterans' advocate Tomaczek Bednarek performs for the crowd



Capt. Dru DiMattia interviews WWII veteran James Monteleone (photo credit: Seafarers International Union)



(L to R): Capt. J.J. Hensley (retired Houston ship pilot), Quinten Echard (seafarer), Capt. Robert Cook (President, Organization of Black Maritime Graduates)

Communications with the Editor

Editor's note: The following letter dated August 24th was received at the AMMV National Office and forwarded to the Editor. Please see our summer issue for the full story on the fight to save the Alameda, CA Merchant Marine officer's school.

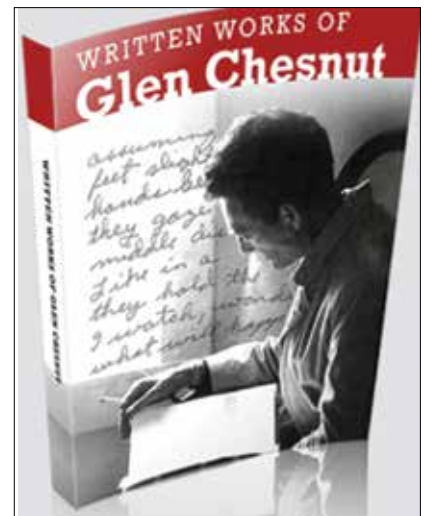
Dear American Merchant Marine Veterans:

Greetings from Alameda, CA. Thank you for the fabulous summer 2021 issue of the News magazine featuring the Merchant Marine Officers School on page 22. Sadly, it will be demolished. We're hoping that the building facing the water that has components like a ship can be saved. I want all of you to know that we Alamedans fought a heroic battle to save this historic building, but the City of Alameda leadership let us down.

Now, on to a lighter note: My husband, Glen was a proud member of the Marine Firemen's Union for over 22 years. He died at the age of 87 on July 6th, 2017. I wanted people to find out what a wonderful writer he was. You are in luck. Glen's book was published in 2020 and you will love it. *Written Works of Glen Chesnut* contains po-

etry, flash fiction, and short stories that are hilarious, poignant, and memorable. There are even 11 sea poems included. Kindly visit Glen's website: <https://glenchesnut.com>. You'll hear him reading his work not in the book, you'll see photographs that he took in Europe while stationed in Germany in the early 1950's, and even see a gallery of his art. Since publication, all proceeds from book sales (paperback and E-book) have been going to charities.

Sincerely,
Ellen Chesnut
Alameda, CA



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NEW YORK



JUST COMPENSATION

WWII Merchant Mariner Compensation legislation passed House on Sept. 23rd

For many years (dating back to the 113th Congress), the existing version of WWII Merchant Mariner “compensation” legislation contained text identical to (the current) H.R. 39 in the 117th Congress. To simplify, this proposes a one-time lump sum of \$25,000 to eligible U.S. Merchant Mariners of WWII, to compensate for decades of lost “G.I. bill” benefits. Since the initial version in the 113th Congress (sponsored by former Congresswoman Janice Hahn), this legislation has gained little traction in Congress.

Enter 101-year-old Charles A. Mills, AMMV Lonestar Chapter, of Pearland, Texas.

After much effort, hard work and luck finally collided as Mills was granted a face-to-face meeting with Rep. Al Green, who has been the latest sponsor of the ill-fated WWII Merchant Mariner compensation legislation. While

Rep. Green has been a supporter of WWII Merchant Mariners, his meeting with Mills sparked immediate action.

The provisions of Green’s H.R. 39 were slipped into **H.R. 4350: National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022** as **Amendment 100**, agreed to by voice vote at 10:46 on Sept. 21st. This piece of legislation passed the U.S. House of Representatives on September 23rd (the same day as AMMV’s CGM dinner celebration)! While the next hurdle is passage in the U.S. Senate, predictions found on *govtrack* website predict a 48% chance of enactment into law (following Senate passage and Presidential signature).

Below is the text of Green’s successful Amendment, followed by the transcript from the record:

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

Amendment No. 9 Offered by Mr. Green of Texas

The SPEAKER pro tempore. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 9 printed in part C of House Report 117-125.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title LX, insert the following:

SEC. 60___. PAYMENTS TO INDIVIDUALS WHO SERVED DURING WORLD
WAR II IN THE UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE.

(a) Establishment of Compensation Fund.--Subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

Sec. 534. Merchant Mariner Equity Compensation Fund

(a) Compensation Fund.--(1) There is in the general fund of the Treasury a fund to be known as the ‘Merchant Mariner Equity Compensation Fund’ (in this section referred to as the ‘compensation fund’).

(2) Subject to the availability of appropriations provided in advance in a appropriations Act specifically for the purpose of carrying out this section, and no other funding source, amounts in the compensation fund shall be available to the Secretary without fiscal year limitation to

make payments to eligible individuals in accordance with this section.

(b) Eligible Individuals.--(1) An eligible individual is an individual who--

(A) during the one-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this section, submits to the Secretary an application containing such information and assurances as the Secretary may require:

(B) has not received benefits under the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (Public Law 78-346); and

(C) has engaged in qualified service.

(2) For purposes of paragraph (1), a person has engaged in qualified service if, between December 7, 1941, and December 31, 1946, the person--

(A) was a member of the United States merchant marine (including the Army Transport Service and the Naval Transport Service) serving as a crewmember of a vessel that was--

(i) operated by the War Shipping Administration or the Office of Defense Transportation (or an agent of the Administration or Office);

(ii) operated in waters other than inland waters, the Great Lakes, and other lakes, bays, and harbors of the United States;

(iii) under contract or charter to, or property of, the Government of the United States; and

(iv) serving the Armed Forces; and

(B) while so serving, was licensed or otherwise documented for service as a crewmember of such a vessel by an officer or employee of the United States authorized to license or document the person for such service.

(3) In determining the information and assurances required in the application pursuant to paragraph (1)(A), the Secretary shall accept a DD-214 form as proof of qualified service.

(c) Amount of Payment.--The Secretary shall make one payment out of the compensation fund in the amount of \$25,000 to an eligible individual. The Secretary shall make such a payment to eligible individuals in the order in which the Secretary receives the applications of the eligible individuals. Payments may only be made subject to the availability of funds provided in advance in an appropriations Act for this purpose.

(d) Authorization of Appropriations.--There is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2022 \$125,000,000 for the compensation fund. Such amount shall remain available until expended.

(e) Reports.--The Secretary shall include, in documents submitted to Congress by the Secretary in support of the President's budget for each fiscal year, detailed information on the operation of the compensation fund, including the number of applicants, the number of eligible individuals receiving benefits, the amounts paid out of the compensation fund, the administration of the compensation fund, and an estimate of the amounts necessary to fully fund the compensation fund for that fiscal year and each of the three subsequent fiscal years.

(f) Regulations.--The Secretary shall prescribe regulations to carry out this section.''.
(b) Regulations.--Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prescribe the regulations required under section 534(f) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

(c) Clerical Amendment.--The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item related to section 532 the following new item:

534. Merchant Mariner Equity Compensation Fund.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 667, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Green) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, and still I rise. Tonight, I rise to express my gratitude to many persons who have caused us to have this opportunity. I thank Chairman Smith for his service and what he has done and Ranking Member Rogers, the members of the Committee on Rules, and the members of the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

Madam Speaker, I rise to say that I do support the NDAA. I understand the need for a strong military, but I also rise tonight with an appeal for some compassion, compassion and, to a certain extent, mercy for our veteran merchant marines. I ask for this compassion because they didn't get some of the benefits that others did.

Let me just read the words, if I may, of President Roosevelt. On June 22, 1944, these are his words when signing the GI Bill: ``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 our country.''

Congress did not provide similar benefits for the merchant marines. As a result of Congress not doing so, most people don't know that the merchant marines were denied benefits within the GI Bill, denied the stipend for the cost of living, books, and supplies as it relates to education, denied tuition-free education, denied unemployment benefits, denied medical benefits, denied low-cost guaranteed loans, denied opportunities.

Madam Speaker, I appeal tonight for those who are still surviving, all of whom are in their nineties. I had the privilege of being with Mr. Charles Mills, 101 years young and still making the appeal for help for these veterans, who literally won a lawsuit to have themselves declared as such.

I make the appeal for compassion for our merchant marines, who had a very high casualty count during World War II.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, the NDAA is one of the most important bills Congress passes annually. In fact, the past decade, the NDAA has been enacted every year. As such, the NDAA often becomes a grab bag for a variety of priorities. To protect the integrity of this process, I believe the NDAA should focus on strengthening the Department of Defense--its systems, its programs, and its personnel. This amendment would provide an unprecedented \$25,000 one-time payment from the VA to

World War II merchant marines. Therefore, we should not be discussing this proposal as part of the NDAA.

I thank Representative Green for his advocacy on behalf of the merchant marines, and I support the merchant marines. I am also grateful for the bravery of these men who served during World War II. They faced danger, and some made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country.

That said, their service has been recognized. The GI Bill Improvement Act of 1977 provided a pathway to VA care benefits for civilian groups, known as active duty designees, who supported the Armed Forces in World War II. The merchant marines are considered active duty designees and, as such, received veteran status and eligibility for VA benefits decades ago.

However, this amendment carves out a new benefit for merchant marines unlike anything Congress has authorized in the past, not even for our most highly decorated veterans.

I have heard that merchant marines feel they were shortchanged because they did not receive the GI Bill benefits. However, this bill creates an inequity among other veterans and active duty designees by providing a thank-you payment for merchant marines.

Ultimately, this amendment unfairly singles out one group of service above another. I also have questions about how many merchant marines would be covered under this amendment and why \$25,000 was deemed as the appropriate amount.

Considering this bill under regular order before the House Committee of Veterans' Affairs would allow us to ask those questions. It makes more sense to have it done that way. This is why I cannot support this amendment's inclusion in the NDAA tonight.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 2 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Illinois has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, tuition benefits in today's dollars would be about \$8,000. The stipend for the cost of living, books, and supplies would be about \$1,200. The unemployment benefits--and I am low-balling--would be about \$16,000.

The medical benefits we can't measure. The loss of opportunities because of the loans that they could have received we cannot measure.

But we can do this: We can do what General Eisenhower asked us to do. We can do what President Roosevelt asked us to do and President Truman asked us to do.

This is our opportunity, a unique moment in time to correct an injustice. And I appeal to you to do so.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, as I mentioned, this amendment would provide an unprecedented \$25,000 one-time payment for VA World War II merchant marines. It did not go through regular order. It did not go through the committee of jurisdiction. This amendment should be placed in the committee that has jurisdiction to justify so that if not only this group but other groups would be able and should be able to receive benefits, as this amendment requires, we would be able to do that.

Madam Speaker, I support our merchant marines. I always have. My 20 years in the State legislature, I did just that. As a matter of fact, at every veteran ceremony, I mentioned and brought up our merchant

marines as our veterans.

That being said, this is not the way to handle this bill. I plead with the Members of this body not to accept this. I am adamantly opposed. I would love to take it up in the committee, not in this bill where it is not the proper place.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, to take this through regular order at this time would mean that we would call on witnesses who have long since gone to glory. It would mean that many of those who live today would not live to see the day that the justice would be served that they richly deserve.

So I make an appeal on behalf of the those who have earned this compassion, they risked their lives for their country, and many of them died. This is our final opportunity for many of them, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 667, the previous question is ordered on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Green).

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Green).

The amendment was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.



Sitting (L to R): Congressman Al Green (TX), Charles A. Mills, Veda Handy; (standing) staffers of Rep. Green



JUST RECOGNITION

Provisions of Rep. Garamendi's H.R. 104 pass the House as part of H.R. 4350

The provisions of Rep. Garamendi's H.R. 104: *To authorize the Maritime Administrator to use certain appropriated funds to purchase duplicate medals authorized under Merchant Mariners of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2020, and for other purposes*, was added to **H.R. 4350: National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022**, which passed the U.S. House of Representatives on September 23rd. Following is the text of this legislation:

3520. Authorization to purchase duplicate medals

(a) In general

The Secretary of Transportation, acting through the Administrator of the Maritime Administration, may use funds appropriated for the fiscal year in which the date of the enactment of this Act occurs, or funds appropriated for any prior fiscal year, for the Maritime Administration to purchase duplicate medals authorized under the Merchant Mariners of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–125) and provide such medals to eligible individuals who engaged in qualified service who submit an application under subsection (b) and were United States merchant mariners of World War II.

(b) Application

To be eligible to receive a medal described in subsection (a), an eligible individual who engaged in qualified service shall submit to the Administrator an application containing such information and assurances as the Administrator may require.

(c) Eligible individual who engaged in qualified service

In this section, the term *eligible individual who engaged in qualified service* means an individual who, between December 7, 1941, and December 31, 1946—

- (1) was a member of the United States merchant marine, including the Army Transport Service and the Navy Transport Service, serving as a crewmember of a vessel that was—
 - (A) operated by the War Shipping Administration, the Office of Defense Transportation, or an agent of such departments;
 - (B) operated in waters other than inland waters, the Great Lakes, and other lakes, bays, or harbors of the United States;
 - (C) under contract or charter to, or property of, the Government of the United States; and
 - (D) serving in the Armed Forces; and
- (2) while so serving, was licensed or otherwise documented for service as a crewmember of such a vessel by an officer or employee of the United States authorized to license or document the person for such service.





JUST RECOGNITION

Convoy Cup Ceremony held at AMMV National Convention

The Convoy Cup honors ceremony held as part of the AMMV 2020/21 (34th) National Convention was conducted by AMMV National President Capt. Dru DiMattia, AMMV Past President Capt. Chris Edyvean, and Captain Egil Vasstrand, Office of the Defense Attaché, Royal Norwegian Embassy, Washington, DC. Unfortunately, AMMV International Affairs Chairman Jens Inge Egeland was not able to attend, yet we owe Jens a debt of gratitude for being the liaison between the Convoy Cup Foundation and AMMV.

The Convoy Cup Foundation is a joint Nova Scotian & Norwegian organization which strives to “perpetuate the memory of the courageous men and women who made possible the convoys, consisting of Merchant Navy and Air Force coverage”. From the Convoy Cup Foundation website: *For (many) years, the Convoy Cup Foundation has been promoting and preserving the history, stories, and memory of the sailors, airmen, and merchant marine that secured and preserved peace in our time. As the memory of the Battle of the Atlantic and World War II sink further into the past, the Convoy Cup Foundation, working with our sister foundation in Risør, Norway, is dedicated to making this important part of our history accessible to a new generation. We use the sport of sailing to tell the story of the convoys. The convoys from Halifax and New York provided a lifeline to an entire continent locked in a struggle against unimaginable tyranny. It is our mission to ensure the scope and scale of the sacrifice made to defend liberty and democracy is never forgotten.*

It should be mentioned that a detailed process is involved with each individual Convoy Cup award. There is a nomination aspect, a research aspect, and a validation aspect when a veteran is considered for this honor.

The first portion of the ceremony bestowed posthu-



Family members and descendants accept Convoy Cup honors posthumously for their veteran who has “crossed the bar”.

mous honors to WWII Merchant Mariners. Family members or descendants were in attendance to accept these awards, and as expected, the acceptance became an emotional mo-

ment for many. This group included: Orville Lee Sova, accepted by his daughter Sheila M. Sova; Edward R. Johnson, accepted by his daughter Laura Johnson Riddle; Chow Chuck Ng, accepted by his son Dennis Ng; E. Douglass Pushard, accepted by his daughter Sandra Barth; John T. “Jack” Schmidt, accepted by his son Tom Schmidt; David Holmes, accepted by his son David Holmes and daughter

Susan Holmes Landes; Riley Ambrose Hill, accepted by his son Thomas Glenn Hill; Harry “Hap” Bledsoe, accepted by his widow Cynthia Bledsoe; Donald Leon McLeaish, accepted by his nephew Tomaczek Bednarek; Thomas Stapleton, accepted by his son Capt. Tom Stapleton; Bob McGaghie, accepted by his daughter Karyn Holm; John Papamarcos, accepted by his daughter Paula Papamarcos, James Ira Mulzac, accepted by his grandson Henry Mulzac, and Allister L. Mulzac and Capt. Hugh Mulzac, accepted by various Mulzac family members.

Our WWII Merchant Mariners in attendance who received Convoy Cup honors during the ceremony were Fame Academia, David Baker, Bill Balabanow, Gerard Driscoll, Ed Laughton, James T. Lindsey, Charles Montanaro, George Offenhausser, Sr., Eddie Pascale, Bob Ross, Dave Yoho, Lee Cox, and Vincenzo James Monteleone. The other seven veterans in attendance had already received this award prior to the convention.

All Convoy Cup honors recipients received a medallion, diploma, and letter from the Convoy Cup Foundation.



Convoy Cup recipients receive a medallion, diploma, and letter.





Convoy Cup recipients Charles A. Mills (left), and George Offenhauser, Sr., both of Texas. These two veterans met on an Honor Flight a few years ago.



WWII Vets sit for photo ops following Convoy Cup ceremony



Laura Johnson Riddle accepts the honors for her late father, Edward R. Johnson



AMMV provided a Merchant Marine flag to each of the WWII veterans during the Convoy Cup ceremony, courtesy of Bill Balabanow.



Centenarian Charlie Montanaro receives Convoy Cup honors.



Capt. Vaastrand shakes the hand of WWII Merchant Mariner Bob Ross.



David Holmes, and wife Patti, with Capt. Vaastand after receiving honors for David's father



Sandra Barth accepts the honors for her late father, Doug Pushard. Doug was an active AMMV member.



Dave Yoho, pictured with Capt. Vasstrand and AMMV President Capt. DiMattia, is presented with Convoy Cup honors.



Seated (L to R): V. James Monteleone, Lee Cox, Fame Academia; standing (L to R): Laura Riddle, Sandra Barth, Cynthia Bledsoe



George Offenhauser, Sr. with daughter Rosalie Murphy and son-in-law Vance



JUST RECOGNITION

Among Chinese-American WWII CGM recipients are U.S. Merchant Mariners

The Chinese-American WWII Veterans Congressional Gold Medal legislation was initially introduced in the House and Senate on May 4th, 2017. These bills passed the Senate on September 12th, 2018 and the House on December 12th, 2018, respectively. The Act was signed into law by President Trump on December 20th, 2018.

Chinese-American WWII veterans who are eligible for recognition include those who served in the U.S. Merchant Marine. In fact, the website for the Chinese-

Americans WWII Veterans Recognition Project lists all approved recipients who served in the Merchant Marine during WWII.

On this list are: Chow Chuck Ng, the late father of Dennis Ng (President of the AMMV Dennis A. Roland Chapter), who served several years in the U.S. Merchant Marine and saw direct combat in WWII; and Leland Wong, the late father of AMMV member Justine Wong. Leland served in the Merchant Marine from 1944-50.

Here is the full list of names, as of October:

Ah Muay Seet	Michael Bow Lau Mar	Him Look Chew	Alvin Wong	Norman M.F. Yap
Arnold Mun Kiong Hee	Peter Chung Ying Chue	Hop Chow	Chee Woo	R. Quock Hung Lim
Cheng Kim Tan	Sai Chung	Jack Way Lew	Chow Chuck Ng	Shing Cheung
Chun Siang Foo	Sin Foo Leung	Joe Foo Lock Wong	David Wales Leo	Tan Wah Kai
Eddie Sue Seong Chang	Tat Soon Tan	King Yee	Fong Li Lee	Toy Lim
Foo Siang Kwe	Wah P. Eng	Lee Lien Fuan	Paul Dong	Walter Hay Lee
Frank Loo	Wang Foot Seng	Lok Shue	George Bing Mew	Young S. Yee
Hai Yung Vee	Ah Tong Hong	Murray K. Lee	Hing Wong	
Hon Chung Ng	Bo You Mark	Peter Lim	Irvin R. Lai	
Jack Ching Lee	Chew Dick Wah	See Thing Chew	James Sing Mar	
Jimmie K.F. Lee	C. T. Kaukaiwi Goo	Suey On Jee	Keng Kwong Han	
King Wong	E. Wing Seung Dong	Thomas Yat Sung Au	Kong Chu	
Koon Kin Goo	Fook Chu	Wah Yuk Soo	Lee Ten Young	
Leland Wong	Gee Fee Guen	Yip Kam	Meng See Foo	

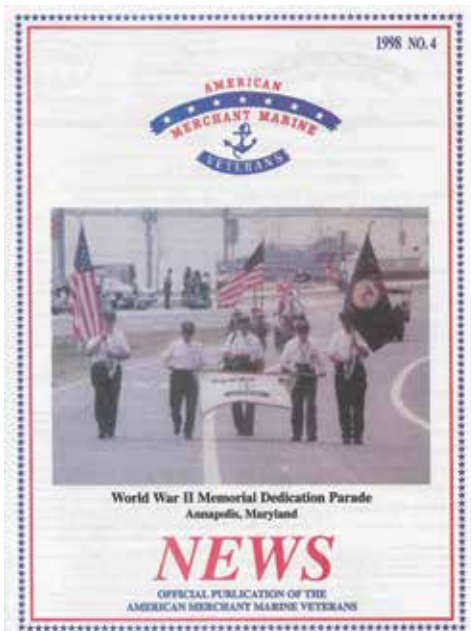


Chow Chuck Ng



Justine Wong accepts her father's CGM





From the AMMV Archives: “Christmas 1945”

Editor's note: The author, Ted Duval, was 18-years-old at the time of this adventure.

My trip to the far East began in Chester, PA on October 2nd, 1945. We took the *S/S Marine Runner* out of the Sun Shipbuilding Yards for sea trials prior to loading

for the Far East. She was a type C-4 with a huge cargo capacity and capable of good speed. We were headed for the Philippines with one of the seven cargo holds loaded with whiskey consigned to Paul V. McNutt, who had been appointed Commissioner of the islands. The other holds held general cargo, except hold # 5, which held thousands of cases of beer.

We sailed fully loaded the latter part of October with the first stop in the Panama Canal. We began painting the ship the post war colors of the American Hawaiian Steamship Company, which were white, buff, and black. After leaving the Canal, we began our trip across the Pacific on the great circle route. The trip was wonderful with calm to heavy seas. The ship was a joy to be aboard and the beer in hold # 5 kept us in good spirits across the thousands of miles.

After about three weeks at sea, we began to prepare for docking in the Philippines. As we entered the San Bernadino Straits below Luzon on our way into Manila, we were not aware that the ship would enter a storm (typhoon) that I have remembered all my life. We were in the storm for 56 hours, and when it had passed, we were 400 miles from the San Bernadino Straits with some horrendous damage and an experience we would remember. Our feelings about the *S/S Marine Runner* were wonderful, but at times during the storm we wondered if she would ever make it through the 70-foot seas and winds of 160 miles per hour.

On entering Manila Harbor which had been heavily bombed with scores of ships sunk, we were informed that the waiting time for docking could be as long as four weeks. After informing the harbormasters of our whiskey for Paul V. McNutt and the thousands of cases of 3.2% beer for the rest of us, we moved right to the docks!

We discharged our cargo with few problems but found the experience with the Filipinos frightening. Many of them carried sidearms (mostly 45's) and were ready to use them at the drop of a hat. The discharge of the cargo was tedious and lengthy. We had plenty of time ashore to visit the bars, restaurants, and sights (the city had been heavily bombed). We even were invited to view the public hanging of a Japanese general who had been

tried and convicted of some horrible war crimes. I declined, and from the stories I heard, I am glad that I did.

We sailed late December and arrived at the island of Mindanao on December 21st. We anchored off the port of Davao about ½ mile offshore. We began to unload during the day into a barge brought alongside.

On the 24th of December, we began to really feel homesick and we tried to engender some of the Christmas spirit among us. As Christmas Eve-day wore on, we convinced each other that we had to go ashore and go to Davao, which was back in the jungle off the beach a few miles. The Captain would not let us use any of the ship's lifeboats to go ashore, so arrangements were made to be picked up by native outrigger canoes with a capacity of at least 10 or 12 men. As we approached the shore on our way in, we heard the roaring of the surf and realized that we were going to have to go through it to reach the shore. That did not alarm us too much until we realized that we would have to navigate that same surf on our way back to the ship.

We roared through the surf and were on a beautiful enormous beach with the jungle right in front of us. We passed many houses or huts all decorated for Christmas with candles, and were warmly greeted by the native Filipinos, many of whom spoke English.

The Christmas spirit began to embrace us and we finally got to the city, and we began to look for a bar or restaurant where we could enjoy ourselves when we heard gunfire. We quickly ascertained that the city was occupied by a U.S. Army regiment who had been left there to fight the few hundred Japanese soldiers left in the mountain above the city. The Japanese soldiers did not believe the war was over and refused to surrender.

The whole atmosphere was wild with much disorder and guns being fired into the air, etc. We quickly determined that Christmas Eve or not, we were heading back to the ship immediately. Upon arriving back on the beach, we attempted to launch the outrigger canoes through the surf. I can still remember the fear we all had until we were finally successful in getting through the surf. When we arrived back on the ship it was midnight and our Christmas adventure was over. On Christmas day we left for Singapore, then Calcutta, India. After being loaded with return goods, we departed down the Hooghly River, into the Bay of Bengal, and proceeded to the Red Sea where we entered the Suez Canal.

After the canal transit, we sailed across the beautiful Mediterranean through the Straits of Gibraltar across the Atlantic to New York. We entered New York Harbor in February to cold, snow, and ice. We signed off the *Marine Runner* and went home.

The Christmas season of 1945 was over and I will never forget it.





Membership Application for:

MEMBER-AT-LARGE

(To join an organized Chapter, please contact AMMV HQ for further information.)

American Merchant Marine Veterans is an incorporated non-profit group working to promote the history of the U.S. Merchant Marine; membership is now open to any interested persons with a desire to share in our goals. Climb aboard and join us as we strive to educate the public about the role which the U.S. Merchant Marine has played throughout American history!

AMMV aims to obtain overdue recognition for our WWII Merchant Marine Veterans and gain recognition for post-WWII U.S. merchant seamen. AMMV members participate in memorial events and support laws/program which promote our modern U.S.-flagged fleet. Membership includes a full color quarterly AMMV News magazine and an annual membership card.



Join online at ammv.us or complete the following information and send to National Headquarters:

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____ DATE OF APPLICATION: _____

Do you have any connection to the Merchant Marine? (Please explain) _____

Member-At-Large Dues are \$32 annually (July 1st through June 30th). Send check or money order for \$32 to:

***American Merchant Marine Veterans
P.O. Box 2024, Darien, CT 06820-2024***

Questions? Please call AMMV HQ: (475) 470-9200; email ammermarvets@gmail.com

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Just prior to our National Convention, longtime AMMV Lonestar Chapter member Charles A. Mills spent some time with Rep. Al Green (TX) to discuss WWII Merchant Mariner compensation legislation. During this time, Mr. Mills also had a chance to meet the Vice President of the United States of America, Kamala Harris.