



# Texas Navy Association

## Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

September 02

### The New Texas Navy Board of Directors

The Texas Navy Association is pleased to announce that Captain Harry Wayne Brown, USCG, Retired, has been elected to the position of President, Texas Navy Association.

Admiral Brown is current President Galveston Council Navy League; Member of Naval Order of US; Member Master Mariners Council Houston Chapter; Board and member Offshore Energy Center; Chairman Pilots Commission of Galveston County (Governor Appointed); Member Galveston Historical Foundation and Elissa Volunteer; Married to Francis Austin Brown; Has one son and daughter and 6 grandchildren.

Admiral John Thiel, M.D,CNO, Texas Navy Association, has retired and resigned his position. We all owe a large and hearty thanks to Admiral Thiel for his many many years of loyal service to the Texas Navy.

The other Texas Navy Admirals working with Admiral Brown on the Texas Navy Association Board of Directors are Lt. Colonel G.J. (Mitch) Micheletti, USAF (ret.) Vice President; Walter P. Nass, Jr., Treasurer; Captain Harry Coker, Texas State Pilot (Ret.), Secretary; W.R. Crim, President Emeritus, Director; Captain C.W. Anderson, USN (Ret.); Ernest Connor; Michael B. Hughes, Esq.; Michael Kemp, Ph.

D.; Irvin H. Reeves; Dr. Ned Van Maanen, Ph.

Joining these dedicated Admirals are new Board Members William Comstock Fisher, IV, and James S. Tyson. The new Board has unanimously adopted a policy that the Texas Navy Association will act aggressively in accordance with it's Charter:

**TO PRESERVE AND TO PROMOTE AN APPRECIATION OF THE HISTORIC CHARACTER AND HEROIC ACTS OF THE TEXAS NAVY; TO PROMOTE TRAVEL BY VISITORS TO HISTORICAL SITES AND AREAS IN WHICH THE TEXAS NAVY OPERATED; TO CONDUCT IN THE BROADEST SENSE A PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGN TO CREATE A RESPONSIBLE AND ACCURATE IMAGE OF TEXAS; AND TO ENCOURAGE TEXAS COMMUNITIES, ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS, AS WELL AS GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES, TO PARTICIPATE WITH ACTIONS AND MONEY IN PURSUIT OF THESE OBJECTIVES.**

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# Preventing A San Jacinto Rematch

By Jonathan Jordan

An oft-overlooked point about the Battle of San Jacinto is just how close Texas came to having to fight the battle a second time, on terms clearly more advantageous to Mexico. On April 25, 1836, Sam Houston's 800-man army lay within striking distance of the main elements of the Mexican Army under veteran General Vicente Filisola. Filisola's forces numbered some 2,800 men, and Mexico held a 10-3 advantage in cavalry, an 8-3 advantage in artillery, and a 2,000-man advantage in overall strength— not taking into account Sam Houston's need to dispatch 50 or so men to guard the 600 Mexican prisoners he took during the battle of April 21.

So why did Filisola not attack? First and foremost, his men were out of food and supplies, having no viable means of supply over the long wastelands of South Texas. The only realistic way to feed and supply his men was by sea, from the Mexican port of Matamoros, at the mouth of the Rio Grande.

Enter the Texas Navy, led by the war schooner *Invincible*. On April 3, Captain Jeremiah Brown sailed *Invincible* to the Rio mouth under a United States flag. There he spotted the Mexican warships *General Bravo* and *Correo Segundo*, as well as the supply ships *John M. Bandel* and *New Castle*. These vessels were awaiting the arrival of another merchantman, and the group was to convoy food and supplies to the Mexican Army.

Sending a trusted lieutenant aboard the *Bravo* in an American uniform, the Texian's cover was soon blown, and a furious gun battle broke out between *Invincible* and *Bravo*. In the course of the engagement, *Bravo* broke off and was run aground, and *Invincible* quickly captured an approaching merchant brig, the *Pocket*, as she blundered her way into cannon range of the Texas warship. Captain Brown sailed home with his rich prize, and the resupply mission from Matamoros was scrubbed.

The lack of supplies was to plague Mexico's *Ejercito de Operaciones* after its winter march through the barren South Texas scrublands, and became the primary reason Filisola obeyed an invalid order from the captured Santa Anna to retreat to the Nueces River. Additionally, Filisola fretted to his superiors that, with command of the northern Gulf, the Texas rebels could move troops by ship along the Gulf Coast, then up the Brazos River, where they could cut off any hope of retreat. In this way, the Texas Navy kept Sam Houston from having to fight a Second Battle of San Jacinto — one which he most likely would have lost.

Over a hundred years later, as World War II was raging around him in the Pacific, U.S. Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz looked back on the Texas fleet's exploits during the spring of 1836 and remarked that the Texas Navy "controlled the sea approaches to Texas, blocked reinforcements to Santa Anna, and contributed in large part to many victories which beset the Mexican Army in its long overland march to the Alamo, Goliad and San Jacinto Battles of 1836. So it was that Texas established a brilliant naval tradition to stand alongside its military record achieved on land."

**(Author)** Jonathan W. Jordan is an attorney in Atlanta, Georgia. He is working on a comprehensive history of the Texas Navy, which will hit bookstores in the fall of 2003.

TEXAS NAVY HISTORIANS, DO YOU HAVE AN ARTICLE YOU WOULD LIKE PUBLISHED IN OUR NEWSLETTER? CONTACT US.

# Up Coming Events



## TEXAS NAVY CARIBBEAN PARTY

October 19th

Cocktails 6:30PM

cash bar

Dinner 7:30PM

Music from Trinidad a Steel Band

Texas A&M Marine Branch on Pelican Island, Galveston, Texas

“Come to the Gym”

\$35.00 per person - PLEASE mail check early



There will be a short presentation by the New Texas Navy Association President  
pertaining to upcoming activities.

## NAME THIS NEWSLETTER

such as:

Beacon

Log

Journal



The Winner will receive a free Texas Flag at the next membership meeting!

Send your suggestion to the editor: Judy Fisher

4642 Waring St.,

Houston, Texas 77027

Or email: [judy\\_fisher@sbcglobal.net](mailto:judy_fisher@sbcglobal.net)



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

## Texas Navy Web Site

If you have not visited the Texas Navy web site you are missing a real insight into an area of Texas History that most Texicans know little about. The web site has possibly the finest bibliography on the subject that exists today. "This Month in the History of the Texas Navy" is excellent and provides dates for the navies historic battles in the Gulf. Take the Texas Navy Quiz and find out things that you might not have known about our navy's history. There are several fine accounts of sea battles and logs kept by members of the Texas Navy.

We have a fine list of other web

sites for research, and information on museums that have very excellent displays of the artifacts of the Texas Navies. We are constantly adding pages and the site has been in existence for almost three years. Check out our "Guest Log" from all over the world. We now have several original documents that are only available here on our web site and more on the way! We are listed in the Eugene C. Barker Library of the University of Texas as the source for Texas Navy material.

Please visit

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

Don't forget to sign our "Guest Log" and please view what you can purchase from the New Texas Navy Ship's Store!