



Newsletter of the Admiral Chester W. Nimitz Squadron *The Texas Navy*

Membership in the Chester W. Nimitz Squadron is open to all Texas Navy Admirals, regardless of your geographical location.

Please contact Adm. Pat McEnroe, <fiveoaks17@sbcglobal.net>, our personnel officer for information.

Reminder: Next General Membership TELECONFERENCE: Thursday, 13July06 @ 20:00 hrs
DIAL-IN: 1-866-817-0752 (Toll-Free) ACCESS CODE: 773143#

Announcement: Texas Navy Day/Texas Heritage Meeting of the Thomas J. Rusk Chapter
SRT

14Sept06 (Thursday) at 19:00 hrs at MARGAUX'S Restaurant
Texas Navy Admirals Invited



July 2006

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COMMANDER' LOG

On November 10, 1995, having just returned from the “Annual Texas Navy Association (TNA) Dinner, I wrote the Texas Navy Association (TNA) CNO, Dr. **John Thiel**, M.D., recommending that the TNA encourage all Texas Navy Admirals to get together on a quarterly basis within their own geographies in addition to the Annual Dinner. I received a “*THANK YOU but ...*” - the TNA was doing just fine meeting at the Galveston Yacht Club each year. **Mary Joan** and **I** dutifully attended annually, enjoying the company of fellow Admirals ... even if it was only one evening out of 365 each year. Occasionally we attended various U.S. Navy Ship Commissionings in Houston. That was the extent of TNA Membership expectations ... back then.

At the **November, 2004** Annual Yacht Club Dinner, however, we were fortunate to share a table with Admirals **Walter P.** and **Betty Nass**, Admiral **Jerry Drake** (A Flower Mound native, but now working in Austin), Admiral **Frank R. (“Dick”) Brown** (A TNA Board Member residing in Dallas), and newly-Commissioned Admiral **Mike Cochran** (also from the DFW area). The camaraderie was spontaneous and the many possibilities for “preserving and promoting” the Texas Navies were on everyone’s lips. We unanimously resolved to launch a “*squadron*”, comprised of like-minded Admirals in the North Texas/DFW area.

Throughout 2005, we met for dinner nearly every other month. At first, just **Dick**, and **Mike**, and myself, then at Dick’s and my invitations other DFW-Area Admirals began to attend: **Mick Barnette**, Rear Admiral **Bob Smith**, **Pat McEnroe**, **Larry Brown**, **Carolyn Orlebeke**, and **Bob Hawkins**, to mention a few of the steady members of our early “Squadron Pioneer” group. We agreed to officially name our Squadron in honor of **Admiral Chester W. Nimitz**, himself a Commissioned Admiral (1958!?) in the Texas Navy. With the help of the Nimitz Museum in Fredericksburg, TX, I tracked down the only living family members of Admiral Nimitz’s immediate Family, two sisters, **Mrs. Catherine Lay** (a widow living in MA) and Mary Nimitz, better known as “**Sr. Mary Aquinas, OP**, a Catholic Nun teaching with the Dominican Sisters in Los Angeles. Both enthusiastically gave us their permission to use their Dad’s name for our Squadron ... and so our newly-formed **Admiral Chester W. Nimitz Squadron** was “Officially Launched” on **September 21, 2005**.

Launching was one hurdle, the real issues were centered around legitimizing our Squadron, getting recognition from the TNA, if necessary, deciding on our Mission, developing our **BYLAWS**, appointing Officers to move the Squadron forward, establishing an official postal address, and getting non-profit status, tax ID approval, and our own Squadron Bank Account. Admiral “**D.A**” **Sharpe**, our Squadron’s first Finance Officer, gets credit for spearheading these latter issues.

Our Squadron’s Inaugural Dinner Meeting, **January 21, 2006**, kicked off a very eventful year First Half of 2006. Joining us for this important event were:

Dick and Barbie Brown Steve and Liz Muethe
Larry and Gloria Brown Jim Vornberg and Charles Ced
Ron and Janie Walenta Chris and Kathleen Cummings
Admiral Bob Smith Mike & Joey Cockran
Pat and Myrna McEnroe D.A. and Suzanne Sharpe

A long and every-growing List of Action Items involved many of us for the better part of the latter half of 2005 and this First Half of 2006. During this period, we continued to conduct “LIVE” meetings, scheduled four monthly teleconferences, participated in other TNA events such as the “**Battle of San Jacinto Symposium** “at the University of Houston, April 22, 2006 (Admirals **Nass**, **Casterline**, **Drake**, and myself), joined with members of the respective *Sons of* and *Daughters of ... the Republic of Texas* at their quarterly meetings, participated in the Funeral for Admiral **Peter W. Orlebeke**, and served as Honor Guards (Admirals **Brown**, **Walenta** and **Muethe**) and Presenters for the Commissioning of six new Admirals, on various 2006 dates ... just to mention a **FEW** of our First Half 2006 activities.

Whilst all of the above “external” activities and events were ongoing, a robust slate of Squadron Officers was Appointed, and will serve for the balance of 2006 and on through December, 2007:

Vice Commander – **Bob Smith** Logistics Officer – **Ron Walenta**
Executive Officer – **Val Belfiglio** Personnel Officer – **Pat McEnroe**
Communications Officer – **Dick Brown** JAG – **Elmer Murphy**
Finance Officer – **D.A. Sharpe** Special Projects Officer – **Mike Casterline**

Special **THANKS** go to Admirals **Walenta** and **Mueth** for initiating and researching vendors for Squadron membership cards, ID cards, uniforms, lapel pins, cuff links, badges, and other “identity” items which might add class and solemnity to both formal and informal occasions, formations, educational activities, and special projects. We are particularly pleased to have Admiral Mueth volunteer to be our Squadron’s Supply Officer working with Admiral Walenta.

THANKS also to Admiral **McEnroe** for investing nearly a week in Galveston and Liberty, Texas, researching the TNA’s files at the Rosenberg Museum and Governor Price Daniel’s files, respectively, as Pat begins to develop a history of the Third Texas Navy by identifying individuals who have been Commissioned as Admirals in the Texas Navy since 1958! Our **THANKS** to Admirals **Belfiglio** and **Phil Vaughn** for volunteering to assist Admiral **McEnroe** in his research efforts.

And speaking of membership, you should be proud to learn that while there were approximately 60 Admirals as members of the TNA at the end of 2005, that **our Squadron has grown to over 30 Admirals since the first of this year**, due in large part to our Squadron’s Officers walking the walk and talking the talk amongst their peers, as well as numerous published, e-mail, and internet communications initiated by Admiral **Brown**.

So now that we have fairly well completed administrative and logistical Action Items ... even providing Squadron calling cards, note cards, and self-adhesive return address labels, etc. ... it’s time we began working on our Squadron’s **MISSION**: (in part) ... **to bring together in fellowship like-minded individuals interested in both promoting and preserving the history, rights, boundaries, water resources ... of the State of Texas ... and its Three Navies.**

Already **KUDOS** are in order for Admirals **Casterline** and **Drake** as they have just this past month succeeded in preserving certain Texas Gulf of Mexico coastal areas with the intercession of Jerry Patterson, **Texas Commissioner** for the **Texas General Land Office**, by suspending private-for-profit land development without first obtaining the permission of the Citizens of Texas.

We are also developing a PowerPoint presentation that may be used by Squadron Members for educational purposes with schools, religious groups, community service organizations, and the public at large.

I cordially **INVITE** all Admirals in the **Admiral Chester W. Nimitz Squadron**, together with their spouses and/or significant others, to join us for a Squadron Dinner, scheduled for **Saturday**,

August 19th, at Margaux's Restaurant in downtown Dallas. Special entertainment will be provided.

I promise that future "Commander's Log" missives will be more brief, but thought it best that we acknowledge our Squadron's brief history and achievements to date using this First Log!

Let's all ***THINK OUTSIDE OF THE BOX*** in finding ways we can fulfill our Squadron's ***MISSION*** and ***HAVE FUN DOING SO !!!***

YOUR IDEAS are ***WELCOME*** ... any time!

ROBERT A. CALLANAN, Admiral
Commander
Admiral Chester W. Nimitz Squadron
Third Texas Navy



Welcome to New Members!

Admiral Jerry Lemons (Itasca, TX)
Admiral Charles Ced (Heath, TX)
Admiral Charles Doolin (Rockwall, TX)
Admiral Captain John J. McCormack, USN (Carswell Joint Services Base, Ft. Worth)
Admiral Joseph Shook
Admiral Wes Clark



Navy Birthday Ball

As time moves forward, so does the date for the Navy Birthday Ball (Saturday 14 October 2006) Renaissance Worthington Hotel 200 Main Street (downtown)Fort Worth. At this time the cost is

approximately \$50.00 per head and there will be ten to a table. Cocktails (no-host bar) begin at 1800hrs 6p.m. followed by dinner at 1900hrs 7p.m. with Entertainment.

There will be hotel rooms available for those who wish to stay over \$118.00 + tax. Mess Dress for officers and cocktail dresses for the ladies.

As a member of the committee I would like to see a good turn out so that we will be recognized and not forgotten, and be remembered that the GREAT state of TEXAS has a NAVY.

Adm. Phil T. Vaughn
pvaughn1@verizon.net



THE CWN SQUADRON SHIP'S STORE IS OPEN

The Chester W. Nimitz Squadron Ship's Store has two standard items for sale. The "Texas Navy" badge (2 1/4" dia) and the "Texas Navy" lapel pin/tie tack (1 1/16" dia). Both of these items bear the official seal of the "Texas Navy" and are on sale for \$10.00 each. Make all checks payable to Admiral Steve Muethe, Supply Officer. (email to SMUETHE@SBCGLOBAL.NET for street mailing address)



I also have two special items for sale. A brass belt buckle with the 1 1/16" lapel pin/tie tack

attached and an admiral's hat medal ion with the 11/16" lapel pin/tie tack attached. Write for pricing and availability.

(Communications Officer's NOTE: I am working on getting good photos of all the merchandise offered through the Adm. Chester Nimitz Squadron Ship's Store, and will post this on our page of the Texas Navy website. Please note that the proceeds from all sales of this merchandise go into the Squadron coffers.)

CALLING CARDS can be obtained from Boxes & More (David Elliot) 972-539-8463 or mail-boxes @verizon.net

I.D. CARDS can be obtained from PIP Printing (Lloyd Eaker) 214-526-0750 or PIPNO57@aol.com

UNIFORMS can be obtained from uniforms-4u.com (James Short) 1-888-223-7941

Best Regards,
Adm. Steve Muethe, Supply Officer
972-931-7415



Annual Meeting of Texas Navy Association held in Galveston

The annual meeting of the Texas Navy Association was held May 13th at the Galveston Yacht Club, and a crowd of approximately 80 Admirals, spouses and guests attended. Texas General Land Commissioner, Texas Navy Admiral and the Governor's special appointee to the Texas Navy Board of Directors Jerry Patterson was the keynote speaker.

A video of Adm. Patterson's presentation may be viewed at: <http://www.texasnavy.com/jp.wmv>

Photographs of the event may be viewed at: <http://www.texasnavy.com/2006annualmeeting.htm>

Admiral Harry Brown, Captain,USCG, Retired,
was elected President of your Association.



I SAY AGAIN

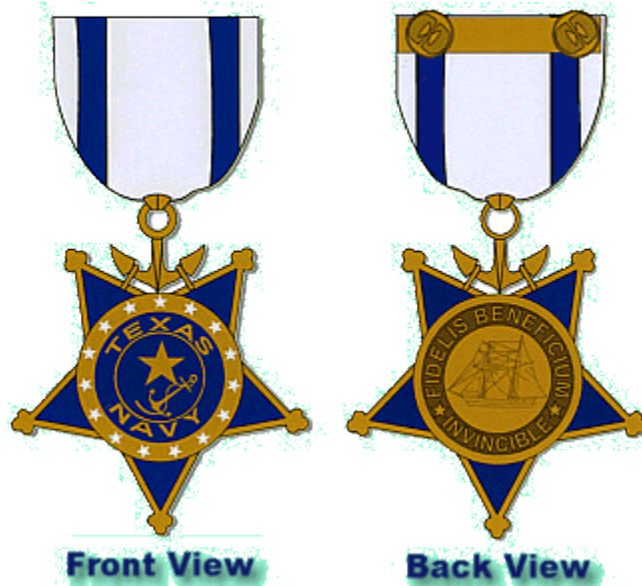
New Texas Navy Commemorative Medals now available

To Commentate the 50th anniversary of the re-establishment of the Texas Navy in 1958 by Texas Governor Price Daniel, the Texas Navy Association is pleased to offer a new commemorative medal. Available only to Commissioned Admirals of the Texas Navy who belong to the Texas Navy Association, the medal features the Texas Navy logo on the front, with a likeness of the Invincible on the back. To order, contact the Texas Navy Association at c/o Texas Maritime Academy,

P.O. Box 1675, Galveston, TX. 77553

- Phone (409) 740-4715

An on-line order form is here: <http://www.texasnavy.com/TN%20Medal%20Order%20Form.doc>



DUES - Are Due! If You are a member of the Adm. Chester W. Nimitz Squadron,
and
You have Not Paid Your 2006 Dues,
you're **WRONG**.

Contact the Personnel Officer McEnroe: <fiveoaks17@sbcglobal.net>

Adm. Chester W. Nimitz Squadron elected and appointed officers for 2006/2007

Bob Callanan - Commander
Bob Smith - Vice Commander
Val Belfiglio - Executive Officer
Frank Brown - Communications Officer
Elmer Murphy - JAG
Ron Walenta - Logistics Officer
Michael Casterline - Special Projects
Pat McEnroe - Personnel Officer
D.A. Sharpe - Finance Officer
Steve Muethe - Supply Officer/Ship's Store

Adm. Chester W. Nimitz Squadron, Texas Navy
C/O Frank R. Brown, Communications Officer
salty_dog@texasnavy.com - (972) 475-0387
Admiral Bob Callanan, Commanding <Bob.Callanan@genworth.com>

** Please distribute this newsletter to anyone who might have interest in this news*