

MILITARY SEA SERVICES MUSEUM, INC.



SEA SERVICES SCUTTLEBUTT

October 2017

A message from the President



John Cecil

Greetings,

Summer is over, kids are back in school, Highlands County's winter guests are slowly returning, and visitors to the Museum are on the increase.

Hurricane Irma delivered a severe blow to Sebring, Highlands County, and most of Florida. Highlands County looked like a disaster area. Trees down almost everywhere, numerous roofs torn off or severely damaged, many mobile homes destroyed, many docks missing or damaged beyond repair. Fortunately, the Museum only had minor damage. A couple of vents blown out and an outside light fixture damaged. Our volunteers

suffered various degrees of damage --- trees down, food in freezers lost due to power out for days, docks torn apart, roofs damaged, flooding. Thankfully, no one was injured. Cleanup and recovery will take a while due to extent of damage, slow processing of insurance claims, and limited availability of qualified contractors.

Improvement at the Museum continue. Some artifacts have been rearranged, and newly installed LED lighting has greatly improved visibility throughout the Museum. A search is underway for a contractor that can build a suitable concrete structure to mount the British Admiralty Cannon show in the August Scuttlebutt.

Some bad news. We were robbed. Someone cut the locks and broke into our new shed. The only item stolen was a new electric pressure washer still in the box. As a result of this break in, the Board of Directors decided we should upgrade our security alarm system to include motion activated cameras both inside the Museum and outside the shed. Estimates so far indicate it may cost close to \$3,000 just for the cameras. Additional research to determine whether a more economical, but equally effective, system is available. Wish us luck.

John

Military Sea Services Museum
1402 Roseland Avenue, Sebring,
Florida, 33870 Phone: (863) 385-0992
E-Mail: navmargrd@gmail.com

Summer Hours of Operation
Open: Thursday through Saturday
Noon to 4:00 p.m.
Web site: <http://milseasvcmuseum.org/>

Welcome Aboard New Members

On 24 Aug 2017, Thomas and Gwen Mischke became annual members of the Museum. Tom is a U.S. Navy Veteran and retired Manager for AT&T. Gwen is a retired Teacher. Tom and Gwen live in Avon Park, FL

On 19 Sep 2017 Timothy and Marguerite Cannon signed up for an annual membership. Tim is a U.S. Navy veteran and a survivor of the 14 Jan 1969 tragic fire aboard USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65). Tim is a skilled cabinet maker. Tim and Marguerite are retired and live in Sebring, FL.

On 18 Oct 2017 Mack Payne and Peggy Scott signed up as life members. Mack is a U.S. Army veteran who served two years in Vietnam. He is the author of two books, "Vietnam Veteran Memoirs" and "Conversations With Vietnam Heroes." Peggy is a Funeral Home co-owner--retired. Mack and Peggy are retired and live in Lake Placid, FL

A very hearty welcome aboard to our newest members! A sincere thank you to all our members for their continued support. Without member support, the Museum would not be able to pay its bills and would have to close the doors.



Fire on stem of USS Enterprise, 14 Jan 1969



Sailors fight fire on USS Enterprise

Memoriam

We are saddened by the passing on 5 October 2017 of Frank E. Uthe, age 91. Frank was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II, and a member of the Museum..

We are saddened by the passing on 13 October 2017 of Floyd J. Tucker, age 86. Floyd retired from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Captain Tucker was a member of the Museum. He donated the mid-1600s British cannon that he helped recover off the coast of Barbados. The cannon will be displayed at the Museum.

We are also saddened to hear of the passing on 5 October 2017 of Maurice (Marty) Beckner, age 100. Marty was a U.S. Navy Master Chief Petty Officer and a veteran of World War II. When the USS JUNEAU was sunk during the battle of Guadalcanal in Nov 1942, 687 sailors were killed, including the five Sullivan brothers. Marty was transferred from the JUNEAU just four days before the ship was torpedoed. Marty knew the five Sullivan's, especially George and Albert.

Fair winds and following seas Frank, Floyd, and Marty. Rest in Peace! Our thoughts and prayers are with the Uthe, Tucker, and Beckner families. Also with Debbie Sardina and David and Gladys Onstedt who looked after Frank, Pam Swerance who looked after Floyd, and the Thunderbird Hills community who looked after Marty.

Tales of an Asia Sailor



[U.S. Navy](#)
by [davisg022](#)

Friday, October 13, 2017, marked the Two Hundred Forty-Second birthday of the United States Navy. I have compiled a history of the Navy from its inception through the present. The entire document comprises over eleven thousand words and twenty pages. It is presented here in four installments.



U. S. Navy The Beginning Through 1812

Compiled and Authored by: Garland Davis

The Navy claims 13 October 1775 as the date of its official establishment, when the Second Continental Congress passed a resolution creating the Continental Navy. With the end of the American Revolutionary War, the Continental Navy was disbanded. Under President George Washington threats to American merchant shipping by Barbary pirates from four North African Muslim States, in the Mediterranean, led to the Naval Act of 1794, which created a permanent standing U.S. Navy. The original six frigates were authorized as part of the Act. Over the next 20 years, the Navy fought the French Navy in the Quasi-War (1798–99), Barbary states in the First and Second Barbary Wars, and the British in the War of 1812. After the War of 1812, the U.S. Navy was at peace until the Mexican War in 1846, and served to combat piracy in the Mediterranean and Caribbean seas, as well fighting the slave trade. In 1845, the Naval Academy was founded. In 1861, the American Civil War began, and the U.S. Navy fought the small Confederate Navy with both sailing ships and ironclad ships while forming a blockade that shut down the Confederacy's civilian shipping. After the Civil War, most of its ships were laid up in reserve, and by 1878, the Navy was just 6,000 men.

In 1882, the U.S. Navy consisted of many outdated ship designs. Over the next decade, Congress approved building multiple modern armored cruisers and battleships, and by around the start of the 20th century had moved from twelfth place in 1870 to fifth place regarding numbers of ships. After winning two major battles during the 1898 Spanish-American War, the Navy continued to build more ships, and by the end of World War I had more men and women in uniform than the Royal Navy. The Washington Naval Conference recognized the Navy as equal in capital ship size to the Royal Navy, and during the 1920s and 1930s, the Navy built several aircraft carriers and battleships. The Navy was drawn into World War II after the Japanese Attack on Pearl harbor on 7 December 1941, and over the next four years fought many historic battles including the Battle of the Coral sea, the Battle of Midway, multiple naval battles during the Guadalcanal Campaign, and the largest naval battle in history, the Battle of Leyte Gulf. Much of the Navy's activity concerned the support of landings, not only with the "island hopping" campaign in the Pacific but also with the European landings. When the Japanese surrendered, a large flotilla entered Tokyo Bay to witness the formal ceremony conducted on the battleship Missouri, on which officials from the Japanese government signed the Japanese Instrument of Surrender. By the end of the war, the Navy had over 1,600 warships.

After World War II had ended, the U.S. Navy entered the Cold War and participated in the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, and the Iraq War. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Soviet Navy fell apart, which made the United States the world's undisputed naval superpower. Nuclear power and ballistic missile technology led to new ship propulsion and weapon systems, which were used in the Nimitz-class aircraft carriers and Ohio-class submarines. By 1978, the number of ships had dwindled to less than 400, many of which were from World War II, which prompted Ronald Reagan to institute a program for a modern, 600 ship Navy. Today, the United States is the world's undisputed naval superpower, with the ability to engage and project power in two simultaneous limited wars along separate fronts. In March 2007, the U.S. Navy reached its smallest fleet size, with 274 ships, since World War I. Former U.S. Navy admirals who head the U.S. Naval Institute have raised concerns about what they see as the ability to respond to 'aggressive moves by Iran and China.

Continental Navy (1775–1785)

The Navy was rooted in the American seafaring tradition, which produced a large community of sailors, captains, and shipbuilders in the colonial era. During the Revolution, several states operated their own navies. On 12 June 1775, the Rhode Island General Assembly passed a resolution creating a navy for the colony of Rhode Island. The same day, Governor Nicholas Cooke signed orders addressed to Captain Abraham Whipple, commander of the sloop Katy, and Commodore of the armed vessels employed by the government.

The first formal movement for the creation of a Continental Navy came from Rhode Island because the states merchants' widespread smuggling activities had been severely harassed by British frigates. On 26 August 1775, Rhode Island passed a resolution that there be a single Continental fleet funded by the Continental Congress. The resolution was introduced in the Continental Congress on 3 October 1775 but was tabled. In the meantime, George Washington had begun to acquire ships, starting with the schooner USS Hannah that was paid for out of Washington's pocket. Hannah was commissioned and launched on 5 September 1775, from the port of Marblehead, Massachusetts.

Resolved, That a swift sailing vessel, to carry ten carriage guns, and a proportional number of swivels, with eighty men, be fitted, with all possible dispatch, for a cruise of three months, and that the commander be instructed to cruise eastward, for intercepting such transports as may be laden with warlike stores and other supplies for our enemies, and for such other purposes as the Congress shall direct.

That a Committee of three be appointed to prepare an estimate of the expense, and lay the same before the Congress, and to contract with proper persons to fit out the vessel.

Resolved, that another vessel be fitted out for the same purposes, and that the said committee report their opinion of a proper vessel, and also an estimate of the expense.

Resolution of the Continental Congress that marked the establishment of what is now the United States Navy.

The US Navy recognizes 13 October 1775 as the date of its official establishment — the date of the passage of the resolution of the Continental Congress at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania that created the Continental Navy. On this day, Congress authorized the purchase of two vessels to be armed for a cruise against British merchant ships. Congress on 13 December 1775, authorized the building of thirteen frigates within the next three months, five ships of 32 guns, five with 28 guns and three with 24 guns.

On Lake Champlain, Benedict Arnold ordered the construction of 12 Navy vessels to slow down the British fleet that was invading New York from Canada. The British fleet did destroy Arnold's fleet, but the U.S. fleet managed to slow down the British after a two-day battle, known as the Battle of Valcour Island, and managed to slow the progression of the British Army. By mid-1776, a number of ships, ranging up to and including the thirteen frigates approved by Congress, were under construction, but their effectiveness was limited; they were completely outmatched by the mighty Royal Navy, and nearly all were captured or sunk by 1781.

Privateers had some success, with 1,697 letters of marque being issued by Congress. Individual states, American agents in Europe and the Caribbean also issued commissions; taking duplications into account more than 2,000 commissions were issued by the various authorities. Over 2,200 British ships were taken by Yankee privateers, amounting to almost \$66 million, a significant sum at the time.

One particularly notable American naval hero of the Revolution was John Paul Jones, who in his famous voyage around the British Isles defeated the British ship *Serapis* (1779) in the Battle of Flamborough Head. Partway through the battle, with the rigging of the two ships entangled, and several guns of Jones' ship *Bonhomme Richard* out of action, the captain of *Serapis* asked Jones if he had struck his colors, to which Jones has been quoted as replying, "I have not yet begun to fight!" France officially entered the war on 17 June 1778, and the ships of the French Navy sent to the Western Hemisphere spent most of the year in the West Indies, and only sailed near the Thirteen Colonies during the Caribbean hurricane season from July until November. The first French fleet attempted landings in New York and Rhode Island but ultimately failed to engage British forces during 1778. In 1779, a fleet commanded by Vice Admiral Charles Henri, Comte d'Estaing assisted American forces attempting to recapture Savannah, Georgia.

In 1780, a fleet with 6,000 troops commanded by Lieutenant General Jean-Baptists, Comte de Rochambeau landed at Newport, Rhode Island, and shortly afterward the fleet was blockaded by the British. In early 1781, Washington and de Rochambeau planned an attack against the British in the Chesapeake Bay area to coordinate with the arrival of a large fleet commanded by Vice-Admiral Francois, Comte de Grasse. Successfully deceiving the British that an attack was planned in New York, Washington, and de Rochambeau marched to Virginia, and de Grasse began landing forces near Yorktown, Virginia. On 5 September 1781, a major naval action was fought by de Grasse and the British at the Battle of the Virginia Capes ending with the French fleet in control of the Chesapeake Bay. The U.S. Navy continued to interdict British supply ships until peace was finally declared in late 1783.

Disarmament (1785–1794)

The Barbary War was ended by the Treaty of Paris in 1783, and by 1785 the Continental Navy was disbanded, and the remaining ships were sold. The frigate Alliance, which had fired the last shots of the American Revolutionary War, was also the last ship in the Navy. A faction within Congress wanted to keep the ship, but the new nation did not have the funds to keep her in service. Other than a general lack of money, other factors for the disarmament of the Navy were the loose confederation of the states, a change of goals from war to peace, and more domestic and fewer foreign interests.

After the American Revolutionary War, the brand-new United States struggled to stay financially afloat. National income was desperately needed, and most came from [tariffs](#) on imported goods. Because of rampant smuggling, the need was immediate for strong enforcement of tariff laws. On 4 August 1790, the United States Congress urged on by Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton, created the Revenue-Marine, the forerunner for the United States Coast Guard, to enforce the tariff and all other maritime laws. Ten cutters were initially ordered. Between 1790 and 1797 when the Navy Department was created, the Revenue Marine was the only armed maritime service for the United States. American merchant shipping had been protected by the British Navy, and as a consequence of the Treaty of Paris and the disarmament of the Continental Navy, the United States no longer had any protection for its ships from pirates. The fledgling nation did not have the funds to pay annual tribute to the Barbary States, so their ships were vulnerable to capture after 1785. By 1789, the new Constitution of the United States authorized Congress to create a navy, but during George Washington's first term (1787–1793) little was done to rearm the navy. In 1793, the French Revolutionary Wars between Great Britain and France began, and a truce negotiated between Portugal and Algiers ended Portugal's blockade of the Strait of Gibraltar which had kept the Barbary pirates in the Mediterranean. Soon after, the pirates sailed into the Atlantic and captured 11 American merchant ships and more than a hundred seamen.

In reaction to the seizure of the American vessels, Congress debated and approved the Naval Act of 1794, which authorized the building of six frigates, four of 44 guns and two of 36 guns. Supporters were mostly from the northern states and the coastal regions, who argued the Navy would result in savings in insurance and ransom payments, while opponents from southern states and inland regions thought a navy was not worth the expense and would drive the United States into more costly wars.

Establishment (1794–1812)

After the passage of the Naval Act of 1794, work began on the construction of the six frigates: USS United States, President, Constellation, Chesapeake, Congress, and Constitution. Constitution launched in 1797 and the most famous of the six, was nicknamed "Old Ironsides" and, thanks to the efforts of Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr., is still in existence today, anchored in Boston harbor. Soon after the bill was passed, Congress authorized \$800,000 to obtain a treaty with the

Algerians and ransom the captives, triggering an amendment of the Act which would halt the construction of ships if peace was declared. After considerable debate, three of the six frigates were authorized to be completed: United States, Constitution, and Constellation. However, the first naval vessel to sail was USS Ganges, on 24 May 1798.

At the same time, tensions between the U.S. and France developed into the Quasi-War, which originated from the Treaty of Alliance (1778) that had brought the French into the Revolutionary War. The United States preferred to take a position of neutrality in the conflicts between France and Britain, but this put the nation at odds with both Britain and France. After the Jay treaty was authorized with Britain in 1794, France began to side against the United States and by 1797 they had seized over 300 American vessels. The newly inaugurated President John Adams took steps to deal with the crisis, working with Congress to finish the three almost-completed frigates, approving funds to build the other three, and attempting to negotiate an agreement similar to the Jay Treaty with France. The XYZ Affair originated with a report distributed by Adams where alleged French agents were identified by the letters X, Y, and Z who informed the delegation a bribe must be paid before the diplomats could meet with the foreign minister, and the resulting scandal increased popular support in the country for a war with France. Concerns about the War Department's ability to manage a navy led to the creation of the Department of the Navy, which was established on 30 April 1798.

The war with France was fought almost entirely at sea, mostly between privateers and merchant ships. The first victory for the United States Navy was on 7 July 1798 when USS Delaware captured the French privateer Le Croyable, and the first victory over an enemy warship was on 9 February 1799 when the frigate Constellation captured the French frigate L'Insurgente. By the end of 1800, peace with France had been declared, and in 1801, to prevent a second disarmament of the Navy, the outgoing Federalist administration rushed through Congress an act authorizing a peacetime navy for the first time, which limited the Navy to six active frigates and seven in ordinary, as well as 45 officers and 150 midshipmen. The remainder of the ships in service were sold and the dismissed officers were given four months' pay.

The problems with the Barbary States had never gone away, and on 10 May 1801, the Tripolitans declared war on the United States by chopping down the flag in front of the American Embassy, which began the First Barbary War. USS Philadelphia was captured by the Moors but then set on fire in an American raid led by Stephen Decatur. The Marines invaded the "shores of Tripoli" in 1805, capturing the city of Derna, the first time the U.S. flag ever flew over a foreign conquest. This Act was enough to induce the Barbary rulers to sign peace treaties. Subsequently, the Navy was reduced for reasons of economy, and instead of regular ships, many gunboats were built, intended for coastal use only. This policy proved completely ineffective within a decade.

President Thomas Jefferson and his Republican party opposed a strong navy, arguing that small gunboats in the major harbors were all the nation needed to defend itself. They proved useless in wartime.

The Royal Navy continued to illegally press American sailors into the Royal Navy; an estimated 10,000 sailors between 1799 and 1812. In 1807, in the Chesapeake-Leopard affair, HMS Leopard demanded that USS Chesapeake submit to an inspection, ostensibly looking for British citizens but in reality looking for any suitable sailors to press into the Royal Navy. Leopard severely damaged Chesapeake when she refused. The most violent of many such encounters, the affair further fueled the tensions, and in June 1812 the U.S. declared war on Britain.

[davisg022](#) | October 10, 2017

Installments 2 thru 4 in subsequent Scuttlebutts.

Thank You CDR Eugene (Doc) Savage, USN (Ret) for this educational series.

Did You know That

SEAL Team Six has an outlaw past. When Richard Marcinko founded SEAL Team Six (so named because there were only two other SEAL Teams, and he wanted the Soviets to think the number was much larger), he did so quickly and effectively. Because the unit was so cloaked in secrecy, the best decisions weren't always made about spending and training. Marcinko, a combat hero and visionary, went on to found a unit called Red Cell (designed to test military units, tactics, and security) and would later spend time in federal prison for defrauding the government. The present name (that we know of) for SEAL Team Six is the Naval Special Warfare Development Group.

Anniversaries

12 Oct 1492. Christopher Columbus discovered the Americas.

13 Oct 1775. U.S. Navy established. The Continental Congress established the Continental Navy by authorizing the procurement, fitting out, manning and dispatch of two armed vessels to search for munitions ships supplying the British Army in America. All together the Continental Navy numbered some 50 ships with about 20 warships active at its maximum strength over the course of the War for Independence. Today, the U.S. Navy is the most powerful Navy in the world. Happy 242nd birthday U.S. Navy!

1 Oct 1880. John Philip Sousa appointed leader of the Marine Band.

27 Oct 1922. U.S. Navy Day established by the Navy League of the United States. The League selected October 27th to celebrate Navy Day because it was the birthday of President Theodore Roosevelt, a naval enthusiast.

26 Oct 1944. The U.S. Navy defeated the Japanese in the Battle of Leyte Gulf. The Japanese Navy was rendered virtually powerless.

23 Oct 1983. A truck pulled up to the four-story U.S. Marine Corps Barracks in Beirut, Lebanon. Seconds later, the Hezbollah suicide bomber inside the truck detonated explosives equal to 12,000 pounds of TNT. The Marine Barracks collapsed killing 241 Americans, 220 Marines, 18 Sailors, and 3 Soldiers. This was the deadliest terrorist attack on Americans before 11 September 2001, and the deadliest single day for the U.S. Marine Corps since Iwo Jima.

13 Oct 1987. The United States Navy Memorial opened in Washington, DC.

12 October 2000. The USS COLE (DDG-67) attacked by Al Qaeda terrorist using a small boat laden with explosives in the harbor at Aden, Yemen. Seventeen USS COLE crew members were killed and 39 were wounded. The USS COLE was severely damaged, but was repaired.

7 Oct 2001. Afghanistan War began. Operation Enduring Freedom

Anniversaries (cont'd)

10 Nov 1775. U.S. Marine Corps established. Captain Samuel Nicholas working out of Tun Tavern in Philadelphia formed two battalions of Continental Marines as Naval infantry. Since then, the U.S. Marine Corps served in every American conflict. Today, the U.S. Marine Corps is the world's dominant practitioner of amphibious warfare. Happy 242nd birthday U.S. Marine Corps.

11 Nov 1918. World War I ended at 1100. On the first anniversary of the end of World War I, President Wilson declared November 11th, Armistice Day. However, it wasn't until 1938 that Armistice Day became a federal holiday. At that time the holiday was to promote world peace and to honor the service of members of every military branch. In 1954, Congress, working under President Eisenhower, changed the name of the holiday to Veteran's Day to include soldiers who fought in World War II and the Korean War. Today, Veterans Day is a day to honor all veterans for their patriotism and honorable service.

12-15 Nov 1942. Naval Battle of Guadalcanal. A Japanese taskforce led by two battleships set out to demolish U.S. Marine held Henderson Field and its aircraft. Two U.S. Navy task groups led by Rear Admiral David Callaghan and Rear Admiral Norman Scott intercepted the Japanese warships before they could range Henderson Field. During three nights and two days of fighting, the Japanese lost 2 battleships, 3 destroyers, 11 transport ships, and 64 aircraft. The U.S. Navy lost 2 light cruisers, 7 destroyers, and 36 planes. The Japanese failure to neutralize Henderson Field and to put appreciable reinforcement troops and supplies ashore was a significant U.S. strategic victory. Within a month, the Japanese Navy and Army abandoned Guadalcanal. Admirals Callaghan and Scott were killed during the battle. They are the only two U.S. Navy Admirals to be killed in a surface engagement.

13 Nov 1942. During the Naval Battle of Guadalcanal, the light cruiser USS JUNEAU (CL-52) was hit by a torpedo fired from the Japanese sub I-26. Approximately 115 of USS JUNEAU's crew survived the explosion. Because of uncertainty about the number of Japanese ships in the area, rescue attempts did not begin for several days. Due to losses from exhaustion, exposure, and shark attacks, only ten sailors were rescued from the water eight days after the sinking. The five Sullivan brothers from Waterloo, Iowa. were among the 687 men lost.

Quotable Quotes

Freedom is a fragile thing and is never more than one generation away from extinction. It is not ours by inheritance; it has to be fought for and defended constantly by each generation, for it comes only once to a people.---Ronald Regan

A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both.---Dwight D. Eisenhower

I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts.---Will Rogers

Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you!
---Pericles (430 B.C.)

Maybe it's true that life begins at fifty . . . but everything else starts to wear out, fall out, or spread out.
---Phyllis Diller

Stories Wanted

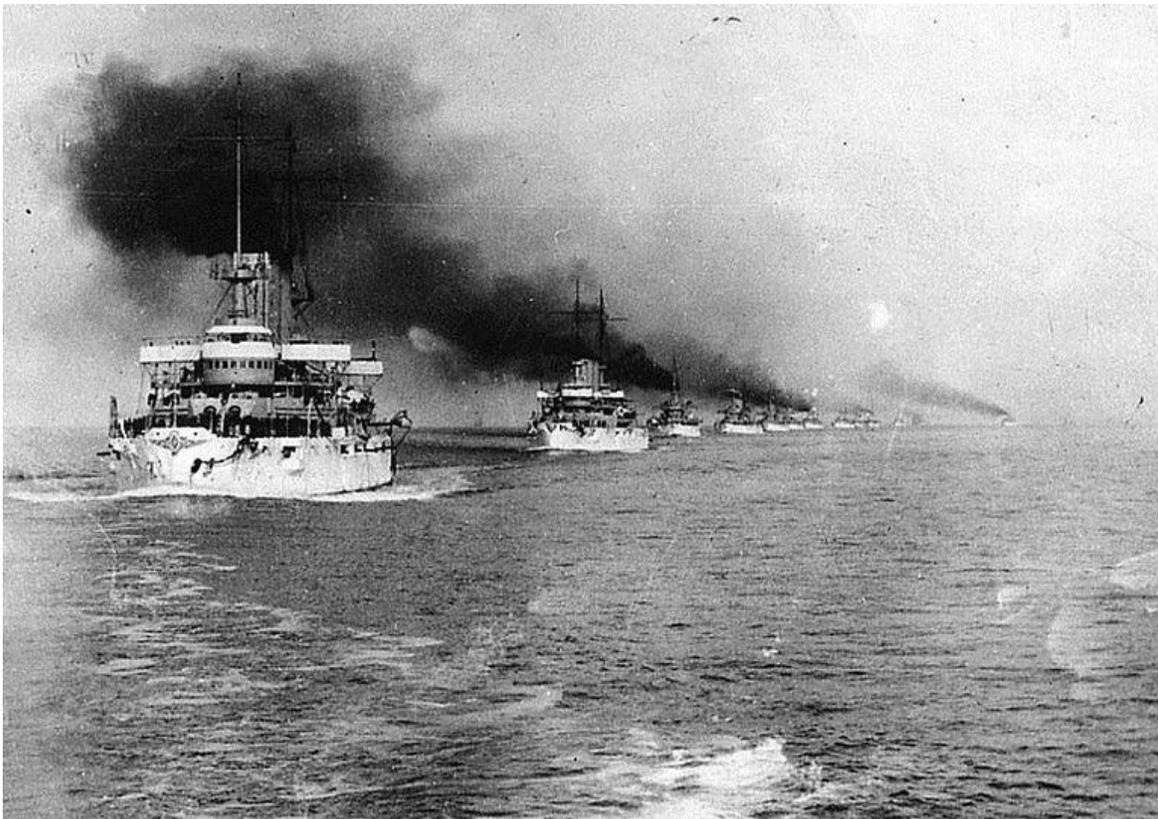
We would like to publish in the Scuttlebutt short stories of Navy, Marine, and Coast Guard personal experiences, and/or short stories of sea services historical events. We are sure there are plenty of stories out there that would be of interest to Scuttlebutt readers. Please email your stories to navmargrd@gmail.com or mail to the Museum.

Military Sea Services Museum Entry in Sebring's Veterans Day Parade



Mock up of the USS Connecticut, flagship of the Great White Fleet that sailed on 16 Dec 1907 from Hampton Roads, VA on a trip around the world via Cape Horn. The fleet returned on 22 Feb 1909. President Teddy Roosevelt sent them off in person and greeted them in person on their return. The following 16 battleships started the trip, Connecticut, Kansas, Louisiana, Vermont, Georgia, Virginia, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Minnesota, Ohio, Missouri, Maine, Alabama, Illinois, Kentucky, and Kearsage. In May 1908, Nebraska and Wisconsin replaced Maine and Alabama at San Francisco.

The boat belongs to Fred Carino. The construction you see here was done by Fred and his brother Chris. The mock up of the fancy bow ornament of ships of the era was constructed by Mary Anne Lamorte and her granddaughter Dominique Juliano. The bow ornament is not included in the above photo, and will be mounted right before the parade. We should have a good photo of the completed mock up for the Dec Scuttlebutt.



16 Dec 1907, Great White Fleet departs Hampton Roads, VA.