

NAVAL ORDER OF THE UNITED STATES



By Dr. Anthony G Ziagos, Sr.

The Naval Order of the United States (NOUS) is the oldest American hereditary society dedicated to research and preservation of Naval History. Established on Fourth of July 1890 by a group of New England mariners, the first Congress of the Naval Order was held on 15 August 1893 in Faneuil Hall in Boston, Massachusetts. The General Commandery of the Order was formed at this meeting, and the constitution adopted with provision for local commanderies in the various states and "members" becoming "Companions". Massachusetts Commandery is the oldest in the country. Since that time others were established in Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Illinois, Texas, Virginia, and Washington, DC.

The mission of Naval Order of the United States is to

"encourage research and writing on naval and maritime subjects preserve documents, portraits and other records of prominent figures deeds and memories of our naval and maritime history and through fellowship of our members advance the Naval Order's unselfish service and worthy aims for the security and enduring well-being of our country. To foster, among all American citizens, informed interest in the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine, with the understanding that their efficiency is essential to national security and that readiness to make victory in war certain and speedy will deter aggression and minimize dangers to world peace."

As a hereditary society, Membership in the Naval Order is by invitation only. Interested parties must submit an application through a companion. Full membership is open to *"Any United States citizen who has served or is serving as an*

officer or enlisted member of the Navy, Marine Corps, the Coast Guard and any other federal military maritime service of the United States or its allies and their descendants over 18 years of age. Associate membership is open to," Spouses of present and deceased regular members, and those, other than United States citizens, who have served or are serving honorably as commissioned officers in an allied seagoing service, shall be eligible for Associate membership. Also, the Naval Order may confer either associate or honorary membership upon individuals who are not otherwise eligible for regular or associate membership, if they have distinguished themselves in the interest of naval service."

Distinguished Companions of the Naval Order include the names of many who served as Secretaries of Defense and of the Navy, Chiefs of Naval Operations Commandants of the Marine

Corps and of the Coast Guard, and admirals and generals, as well as many naval officers who distinguished themselves in the annals of our nation's naval history. They are the regular and reserve officers who served on, above, and below the surfaces of the seven seas, from Manila to Midway to Hormuz and the Persian Gulf in defense of those freedoms that are so cherished by the people of our nation. Included among our distinguished companions are President George H.W. Bush, Chester W. Nimitz, William F. Halsey, Elmo R. Zumwalt Jr., and fourteen Secretaries of State, Navy and Defense.

Mindful of the historic lesson of the need for eternal vigilance, and in gratitude for gallant service, the Naval Order sponsors the following annual observances through its local commanderies. Pearl Harbor Day, Victory at Manila Bay and tribute to Admiral Dewey, Victory at Midway, USS Maine Day, USS Houston Day, Admiral Farragut Day. In furtherance of its

mission, the Naval Order presents several annual awards to midshipmen of the Naval, Coastguard and Merchant Marine Academies.

For a comprehensive history visit their web site www.navalorder.org and for additional information regarding Membership in the Naval Order, contact the Vice Commander General - Membership is Donald W. Schuld. He may be reached at: dschuld@juno.com or (W) 973-927-0242 (H) 973-584-9634. Mailing address: 3 Mildred Terrace, Flanders, NJ 07836-9249. The Naval Order may also be contacted at: Naval-Order@cox.net or call 703-323-0929.

Editors note: Our Publisher, Dr. Anthony G Ziagos, Sr. was elected to membership in the Naval Order of the United States. In addition to his family history of military service, Dr. Ziagos also holds the rank of Rear Admiral in the Royal Hutt River Navy. He has been listed on the Society web pages as a "Distinguished Companion"

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