

# The Invincible

## From the Helm



TNA Members and Friends,

This is my final “At the Helm” column as your Texas Navy Association president. The last two years have been a exciting, challenging, and productive time thanks to the support and engagement of the TNA membership and board of directors.

Our incoming President, Admiral Dick Hatch, has my complete confidence - stand by for a renewed vigor in the pursuit of the Texas Navy Associations goals and objectives! Over the next two months Dick and I, along with the new slate of officers, will be planning the transition and next years TNA activities. As the immediate past president, I will remain on the executive committee, and as the Governor’s appointee, I will remain on the board of directors.

There are several things we’ve accomplished over the last two years we should be proud of. The Commemorative Medallion program, and the press it’s generated, have been an outstanding eye opener for Texans who weren’t even aware there was a Texas Navy. “Bravo Zulu” to Admirals Karen Thompson and Andy Hall. We’ve continued our financial support for the Texas Navy exhibit at the Texas Military Forces Museum in Austin. Admiral Fount McKee successfully stood up our TNA Speakers Bureau, and coupled with

the recently finished *How the Texas Navy Saved the Revolution* film, our speakers will have all the ammunition they need to tell the Texas Navy story across the entire state.

You’ll notice, I used the term “finished” when referring to the Texas Navy documentary that has been in work for some time. Bill “Bulldog” Turner has doggedly pursued this project, which changed in scope and direction multiple times along the way, to a successful completion. Now more than just a movie project, it is also a museum exhibit that will debut next year aboard the USS Lexington in Corpus Christi. The film will play in a theater adjacent to a replica Texas Navy gun deck and every one of the 300,000 Lex visitors who do the ships self-guided tour will pass through our exhibit. The entire \$195,000 film/Lexington exhibit project was funded by contributions specifically dedicated to that purpose – no Texas Navy Association funds were used. Additionally, the film will be made available free of charge to every Texas History teacher across the state.

As you can see, your TNA has been very busy. We are growing in stature and accomplishments. Our fund balances as of 30 September, 2017 are a healthy \$86,378. That’s the good news. The bad news is now that we’re involved in many new endeavors, our expenses have increased. In order to protect our assets, attract and retain

board members, and pass muster of the nonprofit foundations from whom we seek funding, we now maintain directors and officers insurance as well as general liability insurance. We employ a CPA to keep our finances in order and file our returns. To be responsive to our membership, we employ the services of an administrator, Admiral Judy Fisher. Our annual expenses exceed our annual revenues and we could use your help. Here’s what I ask you to do:

1-Renew your membership! If you let it lapse in the past, and would like to talk to me personally about why you should renew, give me a call or text at 512-740-5650.

2-Make a contribution separate from, and in addition to, your annual dues, either online at [www.texasnavy.org](http://www.texasnavy.org) or by mail.

3-Make a ships store purchase today-better yet make several purchases and after you’ve done that and begin your Christmas shopping, do at least part of that at the TNA ships store.

Thank you for your support. It’s been a great ride.

God Bless Texas!,

Jerry Patterson  
President, Texas Navy Association  
LtCol., USMCR, ret.



**The Texas Navy Association**

# The oldest verified surviving veteran of World War II is now an Admiral in the Texas Navy!

On October 19, 2017 Texas Navy Association President Jerry Patterson accompanied by Texas Navy Association Delegate Mitch Fuller and E. W. Moore Squadron Commander Wayne Courreges, presented the Admiral certificate of the Texas Navy to an American supercentenarian, 111 year old Richard Arvin Overton. He is the oldest verified surviving veteran of World War II and the oldest living man in the United States. He was born May 11, 1906 and served proudly in the United States Army. His secret to a long life is enjoying his daily cigars and whiskey. Sounds like a Texas Navy man to us!



(r) TNA President, Admiral Jerry Patterson presents Admiral Richard Arvin Overton his Admiral certificate.

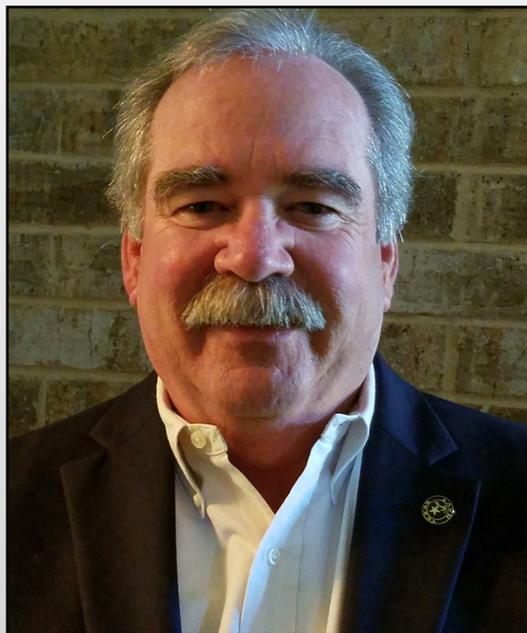


# Results of 2018 TNA Elections

## Welcome Aboard to the Following New Board Members!



**Admiral Jeannie Coffey** will serve another term as a Director of the TNA board. Many thanks to Admiral Coffey for serving once again. She will serve for one term which begins January 1, 2018 and ends December 31, 2020.



**Admiral Jeff Corbin** will serve as Director of the TNA board. He will serve for one term which begins January 1, 2018 and ends December 31, 2020. Many thanks to Admiral Corbin for his willingness to serve.



**Admiral Mitchell Fuller** will serve as Director of the TNA board. He will serve for one term which begins January 1, 2018 and ends December 31, 2020. Many thanks to Admiral Fuller for his willingness to serve.

**To view full election results click on the following links:**

[2017 - 2018 Election Results](#)  
[By Laws Voted On](#)



# 2018 TNA Board Officers



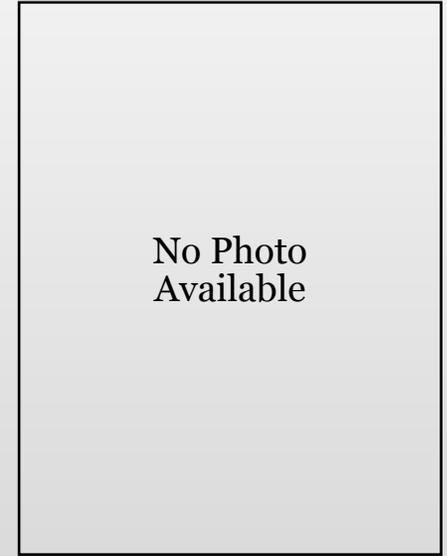
Admiral Richard Hatch  
TNA President



Admiral Richard Dempsey  
TNA Vice President



Admiral Marisa Hegyesi  
TNA Secretary



Admiral Mike DeHart  
TNA Treasurer

Many thanks to all of our Board elected Officers for agreeing to serve the Texas Navy Association in these very important positions. Each position will be held for the 2018 calendar year.



# Memorial Medallion Dedication Ceremony

By: Admiral Andy Hall

A Memorial Medallion Dedication Ceremony honoring Lent Munson Hitchcock, Jr. was held on October 21, 2017 at the Trinity Episcopal Cemetery in Galveston, Texas.

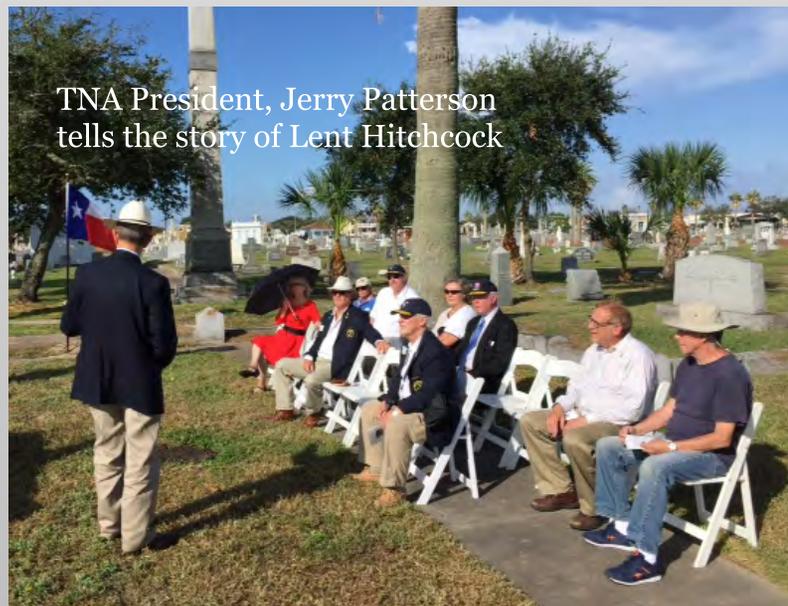


Lent Munson Hitchcock, Jr. was born on October 15, 1815 in Southington, Connecticut, into a seafaring family of New England merchants. He went to sea aboard his father's ship at about age fourteen, and learned seamanship, navigation, and business on trading voyages to the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean. In 1836, at the age of 20, he signed aboard the Texian Navy schooner-of-war Independence at New Orleans as a Midshipman, and in May was commissioned a Lieutenant aboard the Texas Navy schooner Brutus, under Captain William A. Hurd.

Hitchcock served aboard Brutus for almost a year, until April 10, 1837. During that time, Brutus patrolled the Texas coast and spent several months refitting and recruiting in New York. After resigning his commission in April, Hitchcock was appointed as a pilot, qualified to guide vessels in and out of the treacherous entrance to Galveston Bay. Hitchcock also opened a chandlery and general merchandise business in Galveston, often coordinating with his father, Lent Munson Hitchcock, Sr., who commanded the schooner Corine running between New York and Galveston. Hitchcock was active in civic affairs, serving as Galveston's first designated Harbor Master, as a City Alderman, and in numerous local organizations.

During the Civil War, Hitchcock helped organize the defenses at Galveston and, as an operating officer of the Galveston, Houston & Henderson Railroad, supervised the line's government contracting for the transportation of troops, supplies, and charters or locomotives and rolling stock.

Hitchcock died at Galveston on February 27, 1869. After his death his widow, Emily Elizabeth Clifford Hitchcock, donated property to the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railway in mainland Galveston County, on the condition that the stop there be named Hitchcock in honor of her late husband. Lent Munson Hitchcock, Jr. and Emily Elizabeth Clifford Hitchcock are buried in Old Episcopal Cemetery in Galveston.



TNA President, Jerry Patterson tells the story of Lent Hitchcock





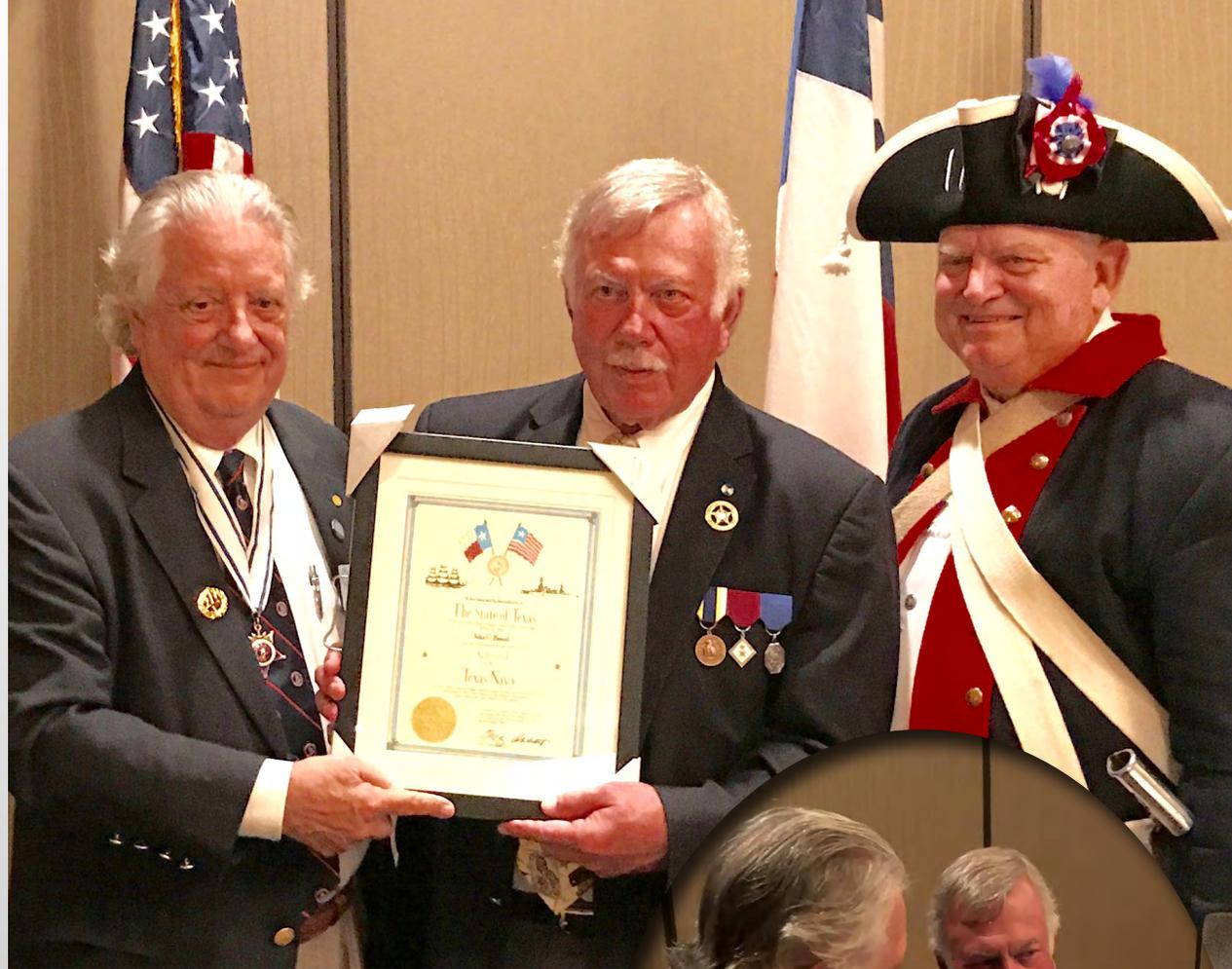
Each year a celebration is held at the Texas State Capitol in downtown Austin, Texas for Stephen F. Austin's birthday. For the last two years it has been the honor of Admiral Steve von Roeder, E. W. Moore Squadron Commander-elect, to present the wreath on behalf of the Texas Navy. He is joined by representatives from the Old 300, Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Sons of the Republic of Texas, Descendants of the Defenders of the Alamo, San Jacinto Descendants and family members of Stephen F. Austin.

The Ross Volunteers from Texas A&M University provided the impressive saber arch each year. The wreaths are laid at the foot of the Stephen F. Austin statue just outside the rotunda of the Texas State Capitol.



Submitted by: Admiral Wayne Courreges,  
Commander of the Moore Squadron

A very memorable moment at the October Sons of the American Revolution Texas Society Board of Managers Banquet was made possible when Admiral Chester F. Barnes III (photo left), Charles E. Hawkins Squadron Commander, Texas Navy Association Director and well respected marine historian Admiral Andy Hall and Admiral Wayne A. Courreges Jr., E. W. Moore Squadron Commander (photo right), presented the Admiral certificate of the Texas Navy to SAR Texas Society President John C. Beard (photo center). Admirals Chester Barnes and Andy Hall were very well received and told the Texas Navy story with boundless passion. So much so that several “inactive” Admirals of the Texas Navy in attendance talked with them after the banquet on how best to get involved with the Texas Navy Association!



Adm. Chester F. Barnes, II, Commander of the Hawkins Squadron in Galveston, places a lapel pin on newly-commissioned Adm. John C. Beard, President of the Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

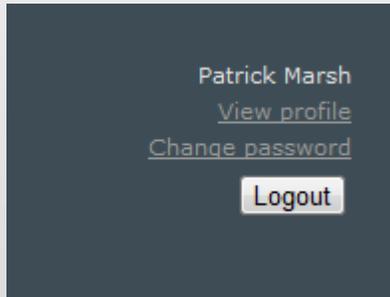


The Texas Navy Association

# Access, print, and share your membership ID Card 24/7 from your member profile!

## You can now print and download your membership card.

Only members can print or download membership cards. To print or download your personalized card, log in to your Wild Apricot site then click the link to access your profile. Your link appears as the words "View profile". (You will find the log in box at the lower left corner of our web site. [www.texasnavy.org](http://www.texasnavy.org))



Your card will appear under the Membership details heading on your profile with all your membership details filled in.

Membership cards will automatically be updated as your membership details change (e.g. membership renewal, profile update or if you change your photo).

**NOTE: ONLY THOSE WHO ARE MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING WILL BE ABLE TO PRINT OR DOWNLOAD A MEMBER CARD SHOWING THE RENEWAL DATE.**



# Affiliated Squadrons

## Charles E. Hawkins Squadron

If you live in the Galveston or south Houston area and are interested in joining a Squadron you may contact Squadron Commander Chester Barnes at [cfbbarnes2@hotmail.com](mailto:cfbbarnes2@hotmail.com)

## Chester W. Nimitz Squadron

If you live in the Dallas area and are interested in joining a Squadron you may contact Squadron Commander Admiral Tim Weiland [e7aviation@att.net](mailto:e7aviation@att.net)

## Commodore Edwin Ward Moore Squadron

If you live in the Austin area and are interested in joining a Squadron you may contact Squadron Commander Admiral Wayne Courreges [wcourreges@icloud.com](mailto:wcourreges@icloud.com)

## Sam Houston Squadron

If you are a Texas Navy Admiral and a member of Lakewood Yacht Club or a reciprocal club to Lakewood Yacht Club and are interested in joining the Sam Houston Squadron, please contact the Sam Houston Squadron Commander, Adm Mike DeHart [mikedeh@msn.com](mailto:mikedeh@msn.com)

## Samuel May Williams Squadron

If you live in the San Antonio area and are interested in joining a Squadron you may contact Squadron Interim Commander Admiral Amy Jo Baker [amyjobaker@satx.rr.com](mailto:amyjobaker@satx.rr.com)

## The Mirabeau B. Lamar Squadron

If you are a Texas Navy Admiral and a member of the Houston Yacht Club and are interested in joining the Mirabeau B. Lamar Squadron, please contact Squadron Commander Admiral Robert Williams [apachenite@aol.com](mailto:apachenite@aol.com)

## Tom Toby Squadron

If you live in the Houston area and are interested in joining a Squadron you may contact Squadron Commander Admiral Ron Brown [ron@ronwbrown.com](mailto:ron@ronwbrown.com)

## New Squadrons Forming

A new Squadron is in the beginning stages of forming. If you live in Corpus Christi and have an interest in joining please contact Admiral Peter Davidson at [peterd@cctexas.com](mailto:peterd@cctexas.com)

If you would like a Squadron to form near you please let us know. Contact Admiral Dick Hatch [rhatch@texasnavy.com](mailto:rhatch@texasnavy.com)



# TNA's Speakers Bureau is up and running!

**O**n Wednesday, September 27, 2017, we represented the Texas Navy Association and the Samuel May Williams Squadron as guest speakers at the 30th annual national reunion banquet of the USS Conyngham Association, DD-371 - DDG-17.

When the Texas Navy Association sent out notification requesting volunteers to be part of the new TNA Speakers Bureau, we enthusiastically volunteered. We are always pleased when we have the opportunity to promote Texas history, especially the history of the Texas Navy.

The chairman of the TNA Speakers Bureau notified us in May that the reunion organizer for this group had seen the TNA web site and requested a speaker for their National Reunion banquet to be held in San Antonio in September.

This was our first presentation for the TNA Speakers Bureau. We were allocated twenty minutes for the presentation and did not have the audio visual software, so we modified the written script that was available for us to use on the TNA web site.

We picked up a city proclamation from the San Antonio Mayor's office welcoming the group to San Antonio to celebrate their 30th reunion, and delivered it to them at the banquet. As a token of San Antonio and Texas friendship, and in appreciation for the invitation to share with them the history of the Texas Navy, each of the sixty-two guests in attendance received a commemorative Texas history medal (Medals designed by Admiral Galindo), that we distributed after the presentation.

We met some wonderful people and truly enjoyed the evening. We had the opportunity to visit with most everyone in attendance, and they enjoyed learning about the Texas Navy, most who said they did not know that Texas had its own Navy.

We are looking forward to representing the TNA and the Samuel May Williams Squadron in the future.

Submitted by:

Admiral Frank and Admiral Karla Galindo



Frank Galindo (left) and the president of the association(right).



The Republic of Texas Navy Memorial Medallion dedication Saturday (May 13, 2017) for Samuel Wade Wybrants (1815-1890) was a great success. As our bagpiper said "How could you turn down honoring a sailor that served 180 years ago?"

The Mayor of Belton, Texas, Marion Grayson spoke about the town of Belton as it was in 1866 when Wybrants moved his family there. She told us he was one of the primary supporters of Baylor University for Women being built in Belton....now known as Mary Hardin Baylor. He was one of the top donors in support of that effort. He started a housing sub-division near the university and it is still referred to as the Wybrants sub-division, although most of the area has actually become part of MHB University.

Malcom Lee Johnson, a descendant of Wybrants came with his daughter and grandson. They live in Fredericksburg. He has been a great help in our effort to compile a history of Wybrants. Malcom himself was made an Admiral in 1995 by Governor Bush.

In the group photo, everyone except Mayor Grayson and the bagpiper, Mike Olsen, are Admirals. Pictured from left: Mike Olsen, Carolyn Orlebeke, Belton Mayor Marion Grayson, Wayne Courreges, Jr., Malcom Johnson, Kathy Howell, Mitch Fuller, John Williams, Janie Babcock, Terry Curb, Jerry Patterson.

Historically yours,

Admiral Karen R. Thompson  
Memorial Medallion Committee  
Chairman





Congratulations to Paula Holmes Morris (r.), of the Charles E. Hawkins Squadron in Galveston, on her recent commission as an Admiral in the Texas Navy. Shown presenting her commission on October 21, 2017 in Galveston is Adm. Jerry Patterson, President of the Texas Navy Association.

## 2017 COMMITTEES OF THE TEXAS NAVY ASSOCIATION

### Executive Committee

Jerry Patterson, Richard Hatch, Marisa Hegyesi, Mark Sebastian and Past President - Bill Turner

### Membership

Chair - Richard Hatch  
Rick Dempsey, Jack Thomas, Butch Spafford, and Richard Neely.

### Education Committee

Chair - Robin Sabo  
Shelly Hendricksin, and Bill Turner.  
Speakers Bureau - Dave Haglund

### Development Committee

Chair - Bill Turner  
Jerry Patterson, Rich Hovey, Jeanie Coffey and Chester Barnes

### History Committee

Chair - Amy Borgens  
Andy Hall, Nina Hendee and Bill Turner

### Search for the Invincible

Chair - TBA  
Andy Hall, Dave Haglund and Jim Earthman, Butch Spafford

and Art Wilcox

### Marketing Committee

Chair - Richard Hatch  
Chester Barnes, Butch Spafford. Paula Morris and Richard Neely and Vince Morvello

### Special Events Committee

Chair - Chester Barnes  
Butch Spafford, Marisa Hegyesi and Peg Hill

### Finance Committee

Chair - Mark Sebastian  
Vince Morvello and Mike DeHart

### Long Range Planning Committee

Chair - Seated President - Jerry Patterson, Richard Hatch, Mark Sebastian, Rick Dempsey, Chester Barnes and Andy Hall

### Commemorative Medal Committee

Chair - Karen Thompson





Print: Adm Pete Rindlisbacher

Many thanks to our Ships Store Sponsor!



If you would like to become a Ships Store Sponsor and have your Logo in the upcoming issues of the newsletter with a link to your website, please contact our Marketing Director/TNA Vice President, Admiral Richard "Dick" Hatch at [rhatch@texasnavy.com](mailto:rhatch@texasnavy.com)



**In Memory Of**

[Admiral Michele Kelsey](#)

*Fair Winds and Following Seas*

