



The Star Spangled Banner

Chapter

BALTIMORE



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MAY-JUNE 2015 NEWSLETTER



MAY 30TH EVENT AT BALTIMORE INNER HARBOR

DOUBLE FEATURE

TOUR USS CONSTELLATION**LUNCH WITH ASTRONAUT REID WISEMAN**

REPORT ON APRIL 15 MEETING

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

MEMBERSHIP TOUR AND LUNCH, SATURDAY, MAY 30, beginning at 1030 a.m.

***** MAKE RESERVATIONS***Form on last page of Newsletter**

Ship Tour will take place "rain or shine". * Bring guests & kids/grandkids!!**



**USS CONSTELLATION at
Baltimore Inner Harbor**



**Astronaut G. Reid Wiseman
Commander, U. S. Navy
Aboard International Space Station**

**MEET ON THE PIER OUTSIDE ENTRANCE
TO SHIP AT 10:30 AM.**

A special guided tour for our members of the historic U.S. Navy ship "USS Constellation" will be conducted by chapter member Glenn Williams. MAJ Glenn Williams, USA (Ret.) is a military historian and the former Curator of this historic ship. You should remember him as our tour guide last year of the Land Battle of Baltimore.

We will tour and learn the fascinating history of

Our guest speaker at lunch will be CDR Reid Wiseman, an astronaut whose hometown is Baltimore, and who graduated from Dulaney High School. He will be speaking live via a SKYPE projection about his experiences in the International Space Station.

Prior to becoming an astronaut, CDR Wiseman has been a Navy combat fighter pilot of the F-14 Tomcat and the F-18 Super Hornet on deployments to the Middle East, a test pilot for the F-35

USS CONSTELLATION, the last all-sail warship built by the US Navy, and the only naval vessel of the American Civil War still afloat. Her service to the US Navy spanned a century, from 1855 to 1955. During that time, she served as flagship of the U.S. Africa Squadron in the campaign to interdict the trans-Atlantic slave trade before the Civil War, served throughout that conflict as a cruiser, and then became a training vessel. From 1871 to 1893, future officers attending the US Naval Academy at Annapolis spent their third class summers training aboard her in much the same way as Coast Guard Academy cadets do aboard the bark EAGLE today. She was the training vessel for the Navy Apprentice School, Newport RI, from 1905 to 1920. For the remaining decades of her time on the Navy list, CONSTELLATION served as a "receiving ship," or floating barracks, and even as the "relief flagship" of the US Atlantic Fleet during World War II.

More historical details found at:
<http://www.historicships.org/constellation.html>

Glenn Williams has published a short volume on the history of the USS Constellation, which may be found on Amazon.com. I recently enjoyed a newly published and well annotated diary of a seaman, who served on the ship: **USS Constellation on the Dismal Coast: Willie Leonard's Journal, 1859-1861**, edited by C. Herbert Gilliland, 2013.

Lightning II, and fighter aircraft weapons systems. Astronaut Wiseman was flight engineer aboard the ISS for Expedition 41, which launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on May 29, 2014. He was in company with two Russian cosmonauts. The three members of Expedition 41 returned to earth in Kazakhstan on November 9, 2014. Their 165 day mission included hundreds of scientific experiments and several spacewalks.



LUNCH AT NOON
McCormick & Schmick's Restaurant
Pier 5, Inner Harbor Baltimore

Price for Tour & Buffet Lunch:
\$36 per person for adults,
\$9 for children (12 and under, selecting
kids' meal)

RESERVATION FORM ON LAST PAGE.
Please mail to arrive by May 25, 2015

CHAPTER DUES FOR 2015 -----Have you sent yours?-----Our Treasurer doesn't have everyone paid.



**NOW PAY
ONLINE !!**

Annual dues remain \$15.00 for the year 2015. **NOW SUBMIT ONLINE. GO TO**
<http://www.moaa.org/OnlineChapterDuesPayment/>. Or please send a check for
\$15 to the Star Spangled Banner Chapter. Mail your check and an update of
address, phone, and email to:
CPT John Baesch, Treasurer
301 Warren Avenue, #203
Baltimore, MD 21230

SUMMER CAMP FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN OF WOUNDED WARRIORS

Camp Puh'tok in Monkton, MD, has funds available for children of Wounded Warriors. Camp phone 410-329-6590 and web www.camppuhtok.com. The Camp is registering now for the summer season and has all activities i.e. archery, horseback riding, swimming, arts & crafts, canoeing, ropes course, nature studies, camping; all things kids would love. Funds are available to these children and are waiting to be used. Thanks for your help. – Ernie Schultz

REPORT ON APRIL 15TH MEETING * AMBASSADOR ROBERT FORD, GUEST SPEAKER**



The General Meeting of the Chapter Membership was called to order at 2030 hours by COL (Ret.) Tom Seybold. Tom welcomed the guest speaker, Ambassador Robert Ford and Mrs. Ford, honored guests Professor Steven David, and Marine Corps LTG (Ret.) Frank Libutti, several guests, new members and ROTC cadets from Johns Hopkins and Morgan State Universities.

Remarks of Guest Speaker, Ambassador Robert Ford

The President, Tom Seybold introduced Ambassador Ford, citing his multiple achievements and honors. Ambassador Ford is a noted Arabist, fluent in Arabic, who has spent almost three decades in the Middle East while serving in the State Department. He held Ambassadorial Posts in Syria and Algiers and, most recently has worked with the Syrian opposition forces.

Ambassador Ford began his vivid and lively presentation by outlining the many problems and challenges that face the Middle East, of which at present is the flare-up of the traditional enmity between the Sunnis and the Shias. It has expressed itself in the sudden appearance of ISIS.

This group emerged because of Sunni fears of dominance and persecution by Shia. In Syria peaceful Sunni opposition protests were met with a vicious military response from Assad's forces. Meanwhile, the U.S. and the world "did not raise a finger for two years" to help! This has radicalized many Sunnis and drove them into the ranks of ISIS. Similarly, the Shia dominated government in Iraq has also alienated and radicalized Sunnis by not controlling the brutalities committed by Shia militias. The situation is indeed grim!

United States efforts to end the conflicts between the various Islamic groups has met with only marginal success. Bombing ISIS, arming the Kurds, and training anti ISIS forces has had a very limited effect. The question whether to contain ISIS, limit it, or destroy it have not been coherently expressed by the Administration. A military strategy and a time to implement it remain undefined. The power, religious, political and military struggles all appear to be very long term!

The ambassador described his 217 kilometer trip to Hama in a humorous and animated way describing the exploits of navigating the city of one million without a map, successfully going through informal checkpoints because of the friendly Arab escort that joined him and hearing the horrific stories of Assad's

treatment from the Syrian opposition protestors. He explained the unique differences between Shia and Sunni as well as other Arab characteristics. The issue of Islamic Extremism was discussed in some detail by questions and comments.

Ambassador Ford's very informative and analytic presentation was very well received. It was followed by a lively question and answer period which provided new valuable insights into the American role in the Middle East. Discussion could have continued much longer due to intense interest!

The President thanked the Ambassador and presented him an engraved bust of Francis Scott Key as a memento.

APRIL MEETING PHOTOS



INVITATION to MEMORIAL CEREMONY and TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL MASSING of the COLORS. SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2015 at the Fort Meade Pavilion, at 2:30 PM.





The Massing of the Colors is a patriotic ceremony, held to rededicate faith in the United States. Promoted by the Military Order of the World Wars, it includes colors and color guards from Active, Reserve, and National Guard units, ROTCs, veterans, civic, and first responder organizations. The colors assemble *en masse*---a living tribute to our heritage, symbolic of our patriotism and love of country.

The ceremony will begin promptly at 2:30 PM. Color Guards will assemble at 1:30 PM.

Family and friends are most welcome.

Refreshments will be served immediately after the Massing.

CHAPTER EVENT CALENDAR for 2015

<p>July 25, 2015 Saturday at Noon</p>		<p>Assemble at noon. Lunch at Dry Dock Restaurant (order and pay on your own) on grounds of U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis; and 1:00 pm tour of the updated Naval Academy Museum guided by the Curator. Finale will be personal tour of Academy by USNA grad VADM Jim Sagerholm.</p>
	<p>Sept. 17, 2015 11:30 A. M</p>	<p>MOAA Maryland Council “Legislative Luncheon” at Sam Rayburn Building, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC. Maryland MOAA members will host our Senators and Representatives for lunch, inviting each to speak briefly and meet MOAA member constituents. Members and spouses encouraged to attend.</p>
<p>September 26, 2015</p>		<p>Noon, Lunch at Carson’s Creekside Restaurant. Expert guided tour of the Glenn L. Martin and Maryland Aviation History Museum. The Museum opened in 1990 to document and commemorate the contributions of Glenn L. Martin, his company, and the State of Maryland to aviation and space technology and history.</p>
<p>November 18, 2015 Wednesday</p>		<p>Chapter Annual Banquet at Mount Washington Tavern, Baltimore. Inviting a Key Political Figure, hopefully a Congressman!</p>
<p>February 2, 2016, Tuesday</p>		<p>Meeting at Mount Washington Tavern Guest Speaker on International Affairs, Professor Steven David from Johns Hopkins University.</p>
<p>June 11-12, 2016</p>		<p>VIETNAM 50TH ANNIVERSARY SALUTE, SPECIAL TO MARYLAND VETERANS Event sponsored my Maryland Public Television seeks volunteers to provide input and participate. 410-581-4138</p>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our Chapter received a letter of appreciation from the Loch Raven VA Community Living and Rehabilitation Center Director of Services for our \$300 contribution and our support of the Morgan State ROTC Alumni "Tailgate Luncheon" coordinated by Annette Brown.



Congratulations to our Webmaster, George Wright! National MOAA selected our Chapter as having the "Best Website" for all Chapters with less than 120 members during 2014. Almost every page has significant input from past and present officers or committee chairs and they are also to be commended. Please note the several new website pages recently created with committee chair input or updated by our talented Webmaster: Chapter Advocacy, Events Calendar, Jobs & Transition, Newsletter, Legislative, and 50 Years Ago at www.starspan.org. George is even considering a software update to improve graphics and ease of updating next fall!

MOAA medals and certificates for exceptional potential for leadership were presented to cadets at ROTC Awards Ceremonies at McDaniel and Loyola Universities by Col. Jim Shelley and at Morgan State and Johns Hopkins by yours truly. Capt. John Backer did the honors at Woodlawn H.S. Navy JROTC and Maj. Chuck Rishell at Milford Mill Academy USMC JROTC.

The Maryland Legislature passed a bill declaring March 30 "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day." John Baesch,



our Treasurer received an invitation from his LX Pimlico contact and invited me. With our wives we attended an elaborate function at the Annapolis Loews Hotel celebrating the Bill sponsored by MD State Senator Astle. It was a first class tribute to Vietnam Veterans in gratitude of their service. There was a large turnout from Veterans in the area of Annapolis. The event was widely supported by Hospice of the Chesapeake, many corporations, the Naval Academy, Ft Meade, and the National Guard. Serendipitously, at the reception, I turned around and there was Governor Hogan with his hand out congratulating veterans! I took the opportunity to thank him for supporting tax free military retirement pay. He said his team was

working hard on the issue but it faced stiff opposition. He also said "Maryland needs more guys like us." The Governor appeared disappointed over results! Governor Hogan signed the new exemption bill on May 12.

The bill the legislature passed increased the exemption from \$5K to \$10K, only for those over age 65 starting in 2015. The MD Task Force working the problem is disappointed. For 13 years they have advanced many good arguments, fought a good fight and recently improved the presentations to the legislature. But emotional arguments don't cut it! The legislative body still only views the tax exemption as a loss in revenue, perhaps even too "good" a deal! It does not envision the opportunity for positive revenue! Evidently Florida and PA do! I proposed the following to the MD MOAA Council personnel involved with the Task Force:

To close this sale, the Task force must show in HARD DOLLARS that over five years Maryland will GAIN in tax revenue, not LOSE if military retirees are completely tax free. A thoughtful and relatively inexpensive economic analysis can do this with solid data, informed estimates and the cooperation of the Comptroller's office. With the growth of military stationed in MD, the military personnel cutbacks, and positive inducements to stay in MD such as tax free retirement pay there should be a growth in retired military personnel remaining in Maryland. Current data indicate retired personnel have high incomes, dual incomes, and with all the various MD taxes such as property, income, sales and inheritance there could be significant growth in Maryland tax revenue. We need to prove it! What do you think?

Respectfully, Tom Seybold,

410-561-5377, tkseybold@hotmail.com

MEET CHAPTER OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

U.S. Public Health/Coast Guard Board Representative- CAPT Charles (Bud) R. Wanner, USPHS(Ret.)

CAPT Wanner served as a P.H.S. Dental Officer assigned to the Coast Guard for more than 33 years. Bud and his wife (of 50 years) Nancy are both from the Hamilton area of Baltimore. Bud graduated from St. Dominick's Parochial School, Loyola High School and College and the Baltimore college of Dental Surgery. He was commissioned into the P.H.S. upon graduation from the Dental School in 1969.

Assignment History

1969 -1972	USCG Governors Island, N.Y. - Staff Dental Officer
1972-1977	USCG Yard, Curtis Bay, MD- Senior Dental Officer(SDO)
1977-1980	USCG Air Station Borinquen, Puerto Rico- (SDO)
1980-1982	USCG Governors Island, N.Y. Advanced General Practice Residency with MS in Pharmacology from NYU
1982-1987	USCG Tracen, Cape May, N.J.- Deputy Senior Dental Officer, then SDO
1987-1991	USCG Academy, New London, Ct.- SDO and Senior Medical Officer (SMO), 1989-1991
1991-1999	USCG Tracen, Cape May, N.J.- SDO
1999-2002	USCG Tracen, Cape May, N.J.-Contract Dental Provider

Nancy and Bud reside at their home on Stoney Creek, AA County which they purchased in 1972 when Bud was assigned to the USCG Yard at Curtis Bay, Md. They enjoy visiting their 10 grandchildren, three in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, three in Houston, Texas, and four in West Allenhurst, N.J. as frequently as possible.

The Star Spangled Banner Chapter

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Newsletter Production

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**RESERVATION FORM: MAY 30, 2015, USS CONSTELLATION TOUR & LUNCH at
McCORMICK & SCHMICK'S RESTAURANT, INNER HARBOR BALTIMORE.
711 Eastern Ave, Baltimore, MD, (410) 234-1300**

PRICE: \$36 per person for adults, \$9 for children 12 and under who select kids' lunch menu.

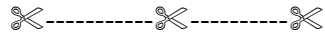
PARKING LOT SUGGESTION FOR THE INNER HARBOR. The USS Constellation is at Pier 1 and McCormick & Schmick's is at Pier 5. Go to ParkingPanda.com and make a reservation using the discount code HISTORICSHIPS for a 10 percent discount. Two convenient and less expensive lots are **55 Market Place** and **Inner Harbor Center Garage at 100 South Gay St.**

Nautical Lunch Buffet at McCormick & Schmick's Cash Bar Private Room

Soup and Salad: Mixed Greens, Fruit Salad, Maryland Crab Soup
 Entrees: Grilled Salmon, Grilled Chicken Breast, Black Angus Beef au Jus,
 Fresh Vegetables, Mashed Potatoes, Toasted Orzo Rice Blend, Sourdough Bread
 Deluxe Dessert Display
 Coffee, hot or ice Tea, Sodas are included.

Kids' Menu (for children 12 and younger): Order from Kids' Menu with choice of:

Grilled Cheese Sandwich
 Spaghetti with Marinara Sauce and Parmesan Cheese
 Chicken Tenders with Barbeque Sauce
 Mac and Cheese
 Fish and Chips
 Popcorn Shrimp with Cocktail Sauce and Choice of Fries or Fresh Fruit
 Cheeseburger with Choice of Fries or Fresh Fruit
 Shrimpkens (Popcorn Shrimp and Chicken Tenders)
 Kids' beverages are included



RESERVATION FORM MAY 30, 2015

(Please mail to arrive by May 25, 2015)

FIXED PRICE Tour and Lunch, \$36 for Adults, \$9 for Children under \$12 using Kids Menu

Add Optional Donation for MOAA Scholarship.

Name _____ Total Number for Reservation _____

Number of Adults ____ Names of Adults _____

Number of Children (12 years & younger) ____ Names of Children _____

Amount for Adults at \$36 per person	\$ _____
Amount for Children at \$9 per person	\$ _____
Add donation for MOAA Scholarship Fund	\$ _____
CHECK TOTAL	\$ _____

Make out check to the **Star Spangled Banner Chapter** and mail to the **Event Treasurer:**

MAJ Charles Rishell, USMC
 11537 Shell Flower Lane
 Columbia, MD, 21044

For last minute arrangements or questions call Chuck Rishell at 410 730-1263.