



Texas Navy Association Newsletter

# The Invincible

Image: Emil Bunjes

**Enter**



July 2011

## Texas Navy Flag on the USS Texas (SSN 775)



standing topside leaving to go on the ship's first ever deployment overseas".

This Texas Navy Flag was given to the USS Texas (SSN 775) at her commissioning by the Texas Navy Association. Former TNA President, Captain C. W. "Swede" Anderson helped organize getting the commissioning of the USS Texas in Galveston, Texas. The USS TEXAS' Commander reported that the Nimitz Squadron Christening/Commissioning "GIFTS" were still proudly displayed in the ship's Wardroom!

### USS Texas Arrives In Busan , Korea For Port Visit

By Lt. Lara Bollinger,  
Commander, Submarine Group  
7 Public Affairs, July 14, 2011

BUSAN, Republic of Korea (NNS) -- Virginia-class fast attack submarine USS Texas (SSN 775) arrived in Busan July 9 for a port visit as part of its deployment to the western Pacific.

With a crew of approximately 140, Texas is only the second Virginia-

class submarine to operate in the western Pacific. The only submarine of its class in the region, Texas works to maintain regional security and international relations, and delivers unique capabilities worldwide. "Our ship's incredible stealth, endurance and war fighting capabilities make Texas the most technologically advanced nuclear powered attack submarine in the world," said Cmdr. Robert A. Roncska, Texas ' commanding officer. "I am extremely proud of my crew's performance and we are looking forward to experiencing beautiful South Korea with our close ROK Navy friends."

While discussing the opportunities and sights in Busan, the chief of the boat machinists mate senior chief Matt Harris told his crew, "This port visit will be a great opportunity for you to get some much needed rest and relaxation."

For many of the crew members, this is their first time visiting Korea .

"I've been on board for more

than three years and this will be my first foreign port," said sonar technician (submarine) 3rd class Russel Myrick. "I'm really looking forward to experiencing the culture and getting some time to relax."

Measuring more than 377 feet long and weighing more than 7800 tons when submerged, Texas showcases advanced technology unique to the Virginia class, making it the quietest attack submarine in the fleet. This submarine is capable of supporting a multitude of missions, including anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface ship warfare, strike intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, irregular warfare and mine warfare, and shallow water operations.

Built in Norfolk , Va. , Texas shifted its home port from Groton , Conn. , to Pearl Harbor , Hi. in the Fall 2009. This marks the first western pacific deployment for the submarine. For more news from Commander Submarine Group 7, visit [www.navy.mil/local/csg7/](http://www.navy.mil/local/csg7/).

With great pride Ben McTee, from Henderson, TX, stationed on the USS Texas (SSN 775) snapped this image of the Texas Navy flag while leaving for the western Pacific for 6 months. It was hoisted on the mast at the stern of the ship, while flying the Texas state flag from the bridge (the sail of the submarine). The submarine was commissioned in Galveston in September 2006, where Ben became a plankowner. He said he did a little research once they pulled into Busan South Korea to find out the history of the flag, and thought he'd pass this photo along to the TNA. Ben said, " From what I understand, it hasn't been flown from a Navy warship in quite some time, so I was really proud to see it while

## Introducing Our Newly Elected TNA Board of Directors

### Treasurer

**Roger E. Drye** is the Director of the Internal Controls for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. In this position he leads the reviews of financial reporting, financial systems, and for the Department's \$112 billion budget and 300,000 employees.



Roger served as a surface warfare Chief Petty Officer in the U.S. Navy, between 1977 and 1993, serving on destroyers and gator freighters in the Pacific, Mediterranean, and Middle East. Roger is a Desert Storm veteran and completed expeditions in Cambodia, Iraq, and Lebanon.

Roger is a graduate of the CFO Academy at the National Defense University, and a Senior Excellence in Government Fellow for the Partnership for Public Service.

Roger resides with his family in Austin, Texas. He has 5 children, 1 grand-daughter, and 2 grandkids on the way.

### Secretary

**Donald S. Dildy** is the Chief Information and Analytical Officer of Nema Enclosures Manufacturing, L.L.C. in Houston, Texas. As such he maintains all corporate reporting and records for the company while monitoring industry and market trends.



He attended Texas Tech University and the University of Alabama with concentration in Finance while being deeply involved in local charitable organizations. While at Texas Tech University Donald was deeply involved with Student Senate as well as serving as the Executive Director of the State College Republican Party of Texas.

Texas gulf coast conservation and promoting activity along the coast is paramount to Donald working with CCA, Ducks Unlimited, GBF, as well as belonging to the Houston Yacht Club.

Donald resides in Houston, Texas surrounded by his loving family and friends.



## Director

**Diane Agerton Dyess** works for Novation, a group purchasing organization where she manages the group responsible for providing spend analytics and deliverables to member hospitals.



She received her Bachelor of Science from Texas Tech University and holds an MBA from Texas Womans University.

Diane is a member of the Junior League of Fort Worth, several genealogy associations and served on the Haltom City Council for six years (one as Mayor Pro Tem.) She has dedicated time to the Economic Development Corporation, Zoning Board of Adjustments and participated in the Habitat for Humanity All Women Built Home.

Diane lives in Haltom City with her husband Jack (current Nimitz Squadron Commander and Mayor Pro Tem), their cat and three spoiled and deserving dogs. They enjoy golf, sailing in the Gulf and travel.

## Director

**Richard M. Dempsey, P.E.**, has served as the Associate Vice President of Business Affairs for Facilities Management at the University of Texas at Dallas since the summer of 2006.



He previously served as the Assistant Vice President for Facilities Management at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin in Odessa, Texas, for eight and half years. Mr. Dempsey graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy with a bachelor degree with emphasis in mechanical engineering.

He has two master's degrees, civil engineering and environmental engineering, from Stanford University. He is a registered Professional Engineer in Texas, California, Washington and Minnesota as well as a Certified Energy Manager. From June 1965 through August 1993, he served in the United States Navy, culminating his naval career as the Deputy Commander Military Readiness and Staff Civil Engineer at the U.S. Naval Facilities Engineering Command in Washington, D.C. He spent five years as an executive with Honeywell Inc. Home & Building Controls Division in Minneapolis before joining the University of Texas System. Currently residing in Dallas, he is married to a Tina Strobel Dempsey, a retired teacher, and has three children and four grandchildren.

## Change of Command Ceremony Port of Beaumont



Presenting LTC Clady (R) a Texas Navy Admiral Commission are Texas Navy Admirals (L) Admiral Don Dildy and (C) Admiral John Nicholson

Out going LTC Tom Clady receives a Texas Navy Admiral's Commission presented by Texas Navy Association Admiral John Nicholson and Admiral Don Dildy. "It was clear, that this honor came as a surprise to LTC Clady. The highlight was when during his formal remarks, Col. Jeffrey B. Helmick, Commander, 597th Transportation Battalion (LTC Clady's boss), addressed LTC Clady as, Admiral Clady", said Texas Navy Association Commander Mark Underhill (Safety Manager U.S. Army 842nd Transportation Battalion).

Clady just completed two years as commanding officer of the 842nd Transportation Battalion stationed at the Port of Beaumont. During his command, Clady oversaw the movement of 146 vessels bearing 11,000 pieces of military equipment either en route to southwest Asia or returning from that theater of op-

erations.

For Clady, Beaumont was the "perfect assignment" because he is a Leesville, La., native and both cultures of Louisiana and Texas blended "right there." Lt. Col. Tom Clady is going to miss his native Louisiana cuisine and his adopted Texas barbecue as he heads for his next Army assignment at the U.S. Transportation Command at Scott Air Force Base in St. Clair County, Ill., east of St. Louis. (Read More: <http://www.beaumontenterprise.com/news/article/Army-changes-command-at-port-1419699.php#ixzz1PMfmJLhi>)

## Ship's Log



Dear Admiral Fisher,

I recently met a dealer in Texas historical memorabilia, Ollie Crinklemeyer of Austin, and purchased two sets of prints of Texas Navy ships from him, one for myself and one to donate to the Houston Yacht Club in memory of Admiral Tynes Sparks.

Crinklemeyer [olliec@austin.rr.com](mailto:olliec@austin.rr.com) has a few additional sets of these prints and I believe other members of the Texas Navy Association might be interested. I have no relationship to Crinklemeyer except as a satisfied customer.

Sincerely,  
Admiral William Schleuse

*The following incident will likely be appreciated by our membership:*

Admiral Mic Barnette was being introduced as a speaker at a genealogical seminar. As the lady doing the introduction of the speaker read through Admiral Barnette's biographical data, she mentioned that he was an Admiral in the Texas Navy. Without missing a stroke, she turned to her side faced him and said "Thank you for your service".

Submitted by:  
Admiral Mic Barnette

Admiral Fisher,

On my application I indicated that I work aboard USS Lexington here in Corpus Christi. If anyone in the organization is in Corpus Christi and wishes to tour the ship they can let me know and I can give them a guided tour at no extra expense to them (normally \$25 per guide). If contacted directly I can work out times, dates, etc. Unfortunately I cannot give them a free pass for admission, but I can save them on tour guide fees.

Thanks again for your work.  
Admiral Bill Miller [vorcha2001@yahoo.com](mailto:vorcha2001@yahoo.com)





## TNA Admiral's Award Winning Poem



Without her knowledge Admiral Lori Carrigan's daughter submitted Admiral Carrigan's poem to poetry.com and much to her surprise, Lori's poem was chosen for the "Editor's Choice Award", and has been published in various military newsletters as well. Congratulations were many including from former President George W. Bush!

### "FREEDOM REIGNS"

Imagine the irony of a terrorist's fate;  
Held captive since birth by terror and hate.  
Their bold plans to take our freedom away;  
Only to discover freedom is here to stay!

I wish for the world the freedom we know;  
As Americans, we defend a friend and fight a foe!  
How fortunate for us we are aware of the significance  
of freedom or restraint and knowing the difference!

So, there is no doubt as freedom reigns,  
and liberty and justice for all remain;  
In our country democracy still stands,  
while we wish the same for foreign lands!

Lori L. Carrigan

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## TNA Admiral Shares Texas Navy History



Admiral Dyess doesn't just walk the walk; he "talks the talk". Fulfilling the Texas Navy Association mission statement Admiral Dyess is spreading the word throughout Tarrant and Smith Counties.

Admiral, and Nimitz Squadron Commander, Jack Dyess has spent his summer months spreading the history of the three Texas Navies. He was approached as a 'substitute' speaker for one of his Tarrant County genealogical groups, and the rest is history. Word of his interactive Power Point presentation spread among lineal groups, then to the Fort Worth Genealogical Society – and continues to find its way to senior centers, assisted living centers and teachers of Texas history in the public school system. His presentation was mentioned at a Montgomery, Alabama convention and interest continues to grow in the unique and special Texas Navies.



## The Texas Navy Time Line (Continued 1836)

### January 1

The eight-gun Baltimore schooner *Invincible*, newly purchased by Velasco businessman Samuel May Williams, arrives at Galveston Harbor.

### January 3

Texas shipping entrepreneur Thomas F. McKinney offers to sell his armed privateer William Robbins to the revolutionary government for \$3,500. The vessel would be purchased by Texas later that month, and would be rechristened the *Liberty*. McKinney, whose business partner Samuel May Williams had just purchased the warship *Invincible*, also offered to sell the *Invincible* to Texas for a 12 percent finder's commission.

### January 5

The revolutionary government's General Council authorizes agents to inspect and purchase the William Robbins and the *Invincible*. Around this time, Texas commissioners to the

United States Stephen F. Austin, William H. Wharton and Branch T. Archer arrive in New Orleans and inform Governor Smith that they purchased the William Robbins during its voyage to New Orleans and rechristened it the *Liberty*. That same day, the General Council provisionally adopted the naval regulations of the United States as the rules governing naval officers of Texas.

### January 7

Texas General Council directs its Committee on Naval Affairs to consider revoking letters of marque and reprisal, issued to privateers, now that Texas is on its way to purchasing a navy. That same day, Texas governor Henry Smith vetoes the General Council's move to purchase the William Robbins on the grounds that it already had been purchased by Texas' commissioners to the United States. The Council overrode Smith's veto, but Smith never took action on the measure.

### January 9

Reports reach Texas that the Mexican warship *Moctezuma* was prowling the Texas coast, waiting to seize shipments of volunteers and arms bound for Texas ports.

### January 10

Governor Smith sent the General Council a scathing letter rejecting its attempted purchase of the William Robbins and *Invincible* and plans to send an expedition to Matamoros, a port on the Rio Grande. Smith's ire stemmed from the Council's purported intrusion on the power of the executive, and afterwards relations between the Governor and the General Council became so strained that the government ceased to operate until independence was declared in March 1836.

### January 14

Austin, Archer and Wharton appoint Edward Hall as Texas' naval agent in New Orleans. Hall had already acquired the warship *Brutus* in December 1835. That

same day, Lieutenant Governor James Robinson suggested that the General Council establish a marine corps to augment its naval power. Eventually over 350 men and 18 commissioned officers would serve in this branch of Texas' armed forces.

### January 14-15

Mexican Navy Lieutenant Thomas M. "Mexico" Thompson is tried by the U.S. District Court in New Orleans for piracy, for his attack on the Texas-owned (but American flagged) brig *Tremont*, steamer *Laura* and armed schooner *San Felipe*. He and fellow defendant, Mexican Army Lieutenant Carlos Ocampo, were released after Ocampo's acquittal and Thompson's jury deadlocked. The case became so acrimonious that the prosecutor and defense lawyers began throwing inkwells and books at each other across the courtroom, and were sentenced to jail for contempt of court. The *New Orleans Courier* reported the next day: "The issue of the





suit is indeed a very remarkable one such, it may be said, as never happened before the pirates set at liberty and the Attorneys committed to jail.”

### **January 16**

The Invincible receives its commission as a Texas Navy warship.

### **January 18**

The U.S. armed revenue cutter Ingham is purchased from the United States and renamed the Independence. The eight-gun warship would serve Texas as its flagship under the command of Commodore Charles E. Hawkins. During January, the Independence began its first cruise, escorting supply vessels from New Orleans to Galveston, the Brazos River mouth, and Matagorda.

### **January 21**

Commissioners Austin, Archer and Wharton appoint A.J. Yates to travel to the United States to purchase an armed steamer for the fledgling Texas Navy. Nothing

ever comes of this proposal, and Texas will not have a steam-powered warship until 1839.

### **January 24**

Schooner Brutus, now armed with seven guns, arrives in Matagorda under Captain William A. Hurd, the former captain of the privateers San Felipe and William Robbins.

### **January 27**

“Mexico” Thompson’s warship, the Correo Mexicano, is returned to the Mexican chargé d’affaires in New Orleans. The schooner was in such decrepit shape that she had to be sold for \$450.

### **January 28**

The Liberty arrives in Texas waters under the command of Captain Jeremiah Brown.

### **February 1**

The revolutionary General Council’s Committee on Naval Affairs recommended that the warships Invincible and Brutus be sent to Matamoros to support

an invasion of Mexican territory. The warships ultimately were never used in connection with any invasion of Mexico during the Texas Revolution.

### **February 12**

Registry of the seven-gun warship Brutus was transferred to the Texas government, becoming the last of the four warships to comprise the first Texas Navy.

### **February 16**

Texas commander James Fannin, providing an assessment of the condition of Santa Anna’s invading army, wrote to the revolutionary government:

“Provisions are very scarce in Matamoros and the adjoining country, and they must depend upon New Orleans. Where is your navy? Stop those ports, and they are ruined.”

### **February 25**

The merchant vessel Pelicano cleared New Orleans loaded with black powder hidden in barrels of flour. The Pelicano would be

captured by the Texas warship Liberty the following month, becoming the first significant prize captured by the Texas Navy.

### **March 2**

Texas declares independence from Mexico.

### **March 3**

The war schooner Liberty (formerly the privateer William Robbins) falls in with the merchant vessel Pelicano and captures it. The Pelicano’s cargo of fruit, flour and other food-stuffs concealed three hundred kegs of gunpowder, which were forwarded to Sam Houston’s retreating Texas Army.

### **March 6**

Under the joint command of William B. Travis (for the regular army) and Jim Bowie (for the volunteers), over 2000 Mexican troops stormed the Alamo Mission in San Antonio. All of the Texan defenders were killed.



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## March 12

Commissions are issued for the first commanders of the Texas Navy: Commodore Charles E. Hawkins (of the *Independence*), Captain Jeremiah Brown (of the *Invincible*), Captain William A. Hurd (of the *Brutus*), Captain George Wheelwright (of the *Liberty*), and Marine Captain Arthur Robertson. That same day, Captain Luke Falvel of the privateer schooner *Flash* received his commission as a privateer captain. The *Flash* would play an important role in evacuating refugees from central Texas to Galveston Island as Santa Anna's invading army drove towards Harrisburg and San Jacinto.

## March 16

Ad interim President David G. Burnet appoints Robert Potter of North Carolina as Texas' first Secretary of the Navy.

## March 20

The American brig *Pocket*, carrying dispatches and supplies for the Mexican army, along with several Mexican Navy

officers, clears New Orleans for Matamoros. The *Pocket* would be captured by the *Invincible* off the mouth of the Rio Grande, and this seizure would set off a huge legal and diplomatic uproar between the Texas Navy, the Texas government, and the United States. That same day, the Texas flagship *Independence* began her second cruise along the Mexican coast.

## March 25

President Burnet issues a proclamation suspending all letters of marque and reprisal issued to Texas privateers, evidently in response to the effectiveness of the official Texas Navy and public backlash from New Orleans against the seizure of merchant ships bound for Mexico by privateers.

## April 1

Samuel P. Carson, Texas' provisional Secretary of State, authorizes Texas patriot James Morgan to purchase the armed schooner *Flash* for the Texas government. The deal never goes through.

## April 3

The schooner *Invincible* sails to Brazos Santiago, at the mouth of the Rio Grande, flying a U.S. flag and spots the Mexican warship *General Bravo* stranded, with her rudder damaged.

The *Invincible* sends a lieutenant in a U.S. Navy uniform aboard for reconnaissance, but the Mexican captain sees through the ruse and attempts to flee towards Matamoros, the armed garrison further upriver. The *Invincible* opens fire on the *Bravo*, and the two ships exchange cannon fire for an hour with no serious damage to either side. The *Invincible* draws off when a strange sail is spotted on the horizon, and captures the stranger, which turns out to be the U.S. brig *Pocket*, carrying goods, personnel and information to the Mexican Army. The incident persuades Matamoros military authorities to call of a resupply and reinforcement mission of an estimated 1,000 troops and supplies for Santa Anna's army. If these troops reached Texas near Galveston or Brazoria, they

probably would have given Santa Anna's second-in-command, General Vicente Filisola, enough troops to prompt an attack after the Battle of San Jacinto, which could easily have spelled the end of the budding Texas Republic.

Thus, the *Invincible* probably saved Texas. The *Invincible* and her crew would, however, be arrested in New Orleans the following month for piracy for the seizure of the *Pocket*, and the controversial capture would cost Texas in money and public support in New Orleans. (The Texas Navy lieutenant sent to the *Bravo*, Lt. William H. Leving, was shot as a spy on April 14). (*Cont'd in the next issue*)



## Nautical Quiz



**T**exas Navy Commander Mark Underhill, Safety Manager U.S. Army 842nd Transportation Battalion, Port of Beaumont, has offered a Coast Guard Gulf Strike Team Ball Cap and Patch (hard to find) as a prize for the member who correctly answers the nautical quiz. Because we have so many intelligent members, all correct answers will be put into a hat and a drawing will produce the “winner”. Dead-line is August 8, 2011. Many thanks to Commander Underhill for this donation and for the quiz questions.

You must have BOTH correct to be in the winner’s hat.

1. What is a nautical Hammerfer?
2. “To an Inuit of the far north, a kayak is only a kayak if piloted by a male. What is the name given to the vessel if a female is in the driver’s seat?”

To participate in this quiz and send your response please click on this link below:

[Nautical Quiz Participant](#)

## Texas Navy Uniforms

**B**ruce Marshall is an award-winning writer and artist whose work has been internationally published and exhibited. His special expertise is regional history, particularly the Republic of Texas, the role of Texas in the Civil War, and the Texas Rangers. Among the honors this has brought him are several unusual titles: Artist of the 65th Legislature of Texas, Artist in Residence of the Texas Navy, and two knighthoods from European royalty.

A fourth-generation Texan, he lives on the historic Eanes-Marshall Ranch near Austin with his wife.



Artist: TNA Board of Director, Sir Admiral Bruce Marshall

## TNA Ship's Store



**Newest Item!**  
**Texas Navy Flag Set**  
**\$20.00**



**TN Logo Crest**  
(Brocaded Cloth)

\$10.00



**Ladies TNA Star**  
Size: One and three  
quarter inches  
Regular Price: \$6.00

With a purchase of  
\$20.00 of Ship's  
Store purchase the  
TNA Star is \$4.00

Check out the great items listed in the On-line TNA Ship's Store by clicking on the link below:

**TNA SHIP'S STORE**

## *Save the Date!*

### **Ceremony**

Moving of  
Texas Navy Monument



September 17, 2011

Next to the Harbor House

Galveston, Texas

(Details will be posted prior to the event)

**NO Charge to Attend!**



### **TNA Christmas Party**

December 2, 2011

at

**The Hilton**

Galveston, Texas

*Dancing* **DJ Music**

Speaker: The Honorable Jerry Patterson  
Texas Land Commissioner

Mark your calender *Now* so you can enjoy

our Christmas Party “and” Dickens on The Strand.



*In Memory Of*



*Admiral Harry L. Coker  
Admiral Ann Cole Fisher  
Admiral Lawrence W. Maher, Jr.  
Admiral Charles E. Shepherd*

*Fair Winds and Following Seas!*

## Announcement

### **Commander-in-Chief**

Honorable Rick Perry  
Governor of Texas

### **Board of Directors**

#### **President**

William W. Pickavance

#### **Vice President**

William R. Turner

#### **Treasurer**

Roger E. Drye

#### **Secretary**

Donald S. Dildy

#### **Directors:**

Honorable Jerry Patterson  
(Governor's Appointee)

Richard M. Dempsey  
Diane Agerton Dyess  
Bruce Marshall  
John R. Nicholson  
James B. Sterling III  
James S. Tyson

The Board of Directors at their last meeting adopted a policy to list names of deceased members that are submitted by family/friends.

Note: Widows/Widowers of our deceased "Admirals" will be able to continue the membership for 1/2 the cost per year. Annual membership for Admirals is \$40, therefore the dues for the widow/widower of the member will be \$20/year. If you know of anyone who would interested in continuing a membership have them contact our membership chairperson at [admjfisher@texasnavy.com](mailto:admjfisher@texasnavy.com)

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