



Texas Navy Association Newsletter

May 2012

The Invincible

Image: Emil Bunjes

A Note from the Editor



Many thanks to all who have expressed your appreciation for the publication of the TNA newsletter. I enjoy the e-mail expressing your support and enjoyment with the various issues. The participation by our members submitting articles is what makes this newsletter interesting and educational.

The main objective of the Invincible is to carry out the mission of the Texas Navy Association which is to promote and preserve the history of the Texas Navy. While this may be our main objective I hope you are learning more about our members and how they are participating with our mission throughout the U.S. and Internationally.

You may not have time to participate individually, but you are a very important part of the association when you share and educate others about the TNA and the Texas Navy history. The distribution of our newsletter continues to grow by leaps and bounds because of others forwarding it to friends and acquaintances.

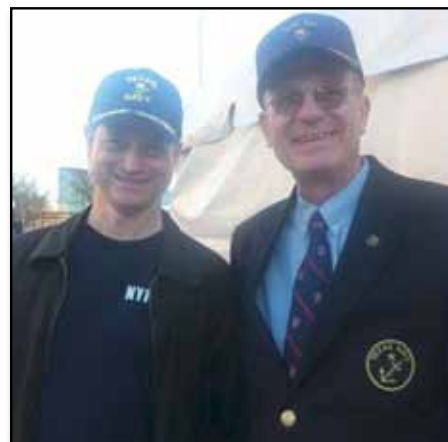
For suggestions or questions please feel free to contact me at anytime.
admjfisher@texasnavy.com

I hope you enjoy this issue,

*Admiral Judy Fisher
TNA Newsletter
Editor/Digital Designer*

Gary Sinise Awarded Admiral's Certificate

Submitted by: TNA Admiral Mark Kelsey, Commander of the Admiral Chester W. Nimitz Squadron



(L) Gary Sinise (R) TNA Admiral Mark Kelsey

On 30 December, 2011, at the Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl at SMU in Dallas, TX, a detachment of the Admiral Chester W. Nimitz Squadron Commissioned Gary Sinise an Admiral in the Texas Navy. On hand were Admirals Kelsey, Callanan, and Sander. Also present was Governor Perry's Chief of Staff, Jeff Boyd, who spoke to a crowd of about 250 people in advance of the Commissioning ceremony. The ceremony had taken place immediately following a Lt. Dan Band Concert so we had plenty of energy on hand. TNA Admiral Callanan brought the American and Texan Flags to make everything "official," and he also preceded the Commissioning with a proper history of the Three Texas Navies much to the delight of the crowd.

Admiral Sinise was very appreciative of being recognized for the outstanding community service that he performs on a regular basis in the State of Texas. Gary is noted for his work with Snowball Express, the Armed Forces Bowl, and many other great events in the state. Gary's band manager, Jim Struckman said, "We are in Texas more than we are in any other state." One thing we can count on for sure, Gary Sinise will be back again this year to be of service, but this time Lt. Dan will be seen by his fellow Admirals as Adm. Dan.

TNA Admiral Sails on USS John C. Stennis



(L) John B. Wardlaw, Admiral, Texas Navy, Carrier Battle Group (R) Commanding Officer of VAQ133 CMDR Chris C. Demay



(L) to (R) Andrew Godwin, AT3 from VAQ133; Ronald Reis, Captain and Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. John C. Stennis; John B. Wardlaw, Admiral, Texas Navy; Rear Adm Craig Faller, Admiral, Carrier Battle Group

This past February TNA Admiral John Wardlaw was invited to sail on the USS John C. Stennis from Pearl Harbor Naval Station to San Diego Naval Station. This momentous experience was an invitation by Admiral Wardlaw's grandson who was deployed aboard the Stennis with VAQ133. The trip is known as the "Tiger Cruise".

Admiral Wardlaw being a gracious guest aboard the USS John C. Stennis presented Texas Navy Pennants to Commander Christopher DeMay, Commanding Officer of VAQ133, and to Captain Ron Reis, Commanding Officer, CVN74, USS John C. Stennis and to Admiral Craig Faller, Commanding Officer of Carrier Strike Group 3. The presentations took place on the Admiral's bridge.

Admiral Wardlaw when asked to comment on his remarkable experience said, "I served in the US Navy for 8 years during the Korean War era. I trained photographers and ordnance people to operate from CV class carriers. The aircraft, electronics, and ordnance are much better, bigger, fast and deadly. The procedures aboard the carrier have changed only slightly. I was back in the US Navy for a week!"

The Ships Store

New Ships Store item. High quality Golf Ball Marker and Divot Tool with Texas Navy Logo



New Ships Store item coming soon. Velour Golf Towel with embroidered Texas Navy Logo.



Click on this link [Ships Store](#) to view the Ships Store items. Is there some item you would like to see the Ships Store carry? Contact Lt. Fisher at ltfisher@texasnavy.com

AARP Names TNA Admiral “News maker-of-the-Week”



Admiral R. J. Ritter

Admiral R. J. Ritter has been well known for his tireless efforts to find 195,000 veterans exposed to radiation when the United States conducted atmospheric nuclear bomb tests between 1945 and 1962.

This past November Admiral Ritter was recognized by the AARP and was named “News maker-of-the-Week”. The AARP published an article highlighting Admiral Ritter’s fine work.

“Veterans are eligible for up to a onetime \$75,000 benefit if exposed during atmospheric nuclear testing or up to \$2,673 a month if they were part of the occupational army in Japan after World War II and developed cancers that can be traced to this exposure”. Ritter underscores the urgency of finding these aging veterans.

“I am driven more by the fact these guys didn’t know what they were doing. I didn’t know what I was doing. I was 17,” Ritter says. “I get great satisfaction in getting a call from someone who says, ‘I just got my check. Thank you.’”

(Full article by: Judi Hasson from AARP Bulletin, November 8, 2011). Click [HERE](#) for full story.

Congratulations Admiral Ritter! Keep up the good work.

In the fall of 1843, Editor Moore publishes news of President Sam Houston’s secret attempt to sell the entire Texas Navy.

Doc Rice finds numerous Republic era news articles written by Moore in 1843 and invites our readers to enjoy his findings. Doc publishes “THE EDITOR” which is a quarterly newsletter from students, researchers, scholars and admirers of the Republic of Texas.

These findings are editorials of 1836-1846 written by a one-armed newspaperman, Dr. Francis Moore, Jr. for his tabloid Telegraph and Texas Register. Doc’s October issue is on the **“Sale of the Entire Texas Navy and the shouting matches that went with it”**.

As stated in THE EDITOR:

“Is it authentic? Yes, over 500 of Dr. Francis Moore’s editorials from 1836 to 1846 were collected, edited, “modernized,” illustrated, condensed for 21st century readers. You have not seen them. Nobody has. It’s as if they have been buried deep in the earth and brought to light. Quarterly surprises are in store for readers.”

Many thanks to Doc Rice for reaching out to us and asking that we share his findings with our members. To get on the mailing list for the October issue about the Texas Navy Sale please contact Doc at ProcedureDoc@gmail.com



SAVE
THE
DATE!

TNA
ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS
PARTY &
MEETING

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 15, 2012

SOUTH SHORE
HARBOUR RESORT

CLICK [HERE](#)
TO VIEW THE RESORT

TNA Admiral Jack Dyess Making a Difference

Admiral Jack Dyess is very busy educating the public about the history of the Texas Navy. He has made numerous presentations in and around Texas. His presentations to-date are as follows:

Texas Navy PowerPoint Presentations made since Jan 1, 2012

Jan 1, Arlington, TX, Masonic Home
Jan 7, Haltom City, TX, Brown Squadron
Jan 12, Arlington, TX
Feb 9, Athens, TX
Feb 13, Rockwall, TX
Feb 16, Tyler, TX
Feb 18, Dallas, TX, Nimitz Squadron
Mar 6, Weatherford, TX
Mar 13, The Woodlands, TX, SRT
Apr 19, Waxahachie, TX
Apr 28, Decatur, TX



Texas Navy PowerPoint Presentations scheduled:

Jun 9 Palestine, TX
Jun 30 Texarkana, TX
Jul 17 Haltom City, TX, Public Library
Jul 30, Hugo, OK
Aug 4, Wichita KS
Aug 15, Victoria TX
Aug 16, Corpus Christi, TX

Many thanks to Admiral Dyess for his dedication! If you wish to attend a presentation or learn how to make your own you can contact Admiral Jack Dyess by clicking on this link, [Admiral Dyess](#)

TNA Admiral Awards Commission



(L) Texas Navy Admiral K. Moore (CAPT Kathleen Moore, Deputy Commander, US Coast Guard Sector Corpus Christi), presenting D. B. "Bull" Walker, his Texas Navy Admiral's commission. Joining in the presentation (far right) is CAPT John Pasch, Commander, USCG Sector Corpus Christi. AMD Walker was presented his certificate at a luncheon for Sector Corpus Christi, hosted by the Navy League Association, on March 14, 2012.

ADM Walker retired several years ago from the US Navy, at the rank of Lieutenant Commander and remains incredibly active with the Ingleside Area Council, Lone Star Region of the Navy League and has served as a National Director.

Congratulations and welcome aboard!

Membership Dues
can now be paid On-line!

Click the link below to find more info.
[On-Line Dues Payments](#)

Check out the new Squadron

Captain Jeremiah Brown Squadron

Fort Worth

Click on the link below for Info

[Squadron](#)

Nautical Quiz

Ebb means: *(answer on page 10)*

1. The forward part of a boat
2. A receding tide
3. An incoming tide

The Texas Navy Time Line

(Con't from last Invincible)

December 9: Texas President Sam Houston recommends that Congress commission Joseph C. Williams, "of the Texian private Armed Schooner, Terrible," as a captain in the Texas Navy.

December 10: Texas government passes legislation creating the official Texas Navy flag, one which had been in use since April 1836. The flag is identical to the national flag of the United States, except that it has a single star in the blue field, in place of the twenty-four stars of the U.S. flag.

December 13: President Houston signs a law that requires Cabinet officers to remain at the seat of government, at the time Columbia, Texas. This law would be used to justify Houston's removal of Texas Navy Secretary S. Rhoads Fisher, after he departed Texas on an offensive cruise against Mexican coastal villages and shipping in the summer of 1837.

December 15: Texas government enacts regulations for the Texas Navy. These regulations are virtually copied from those of the United States Navy. That same day President Houston signed a law appropriating

\$150,000 for navy expenses. (Little of this money was ever actually raised.)

December 19: In New York, creditors of the warship Brutus, which had been in port since early November (and had run up tremendous debts for repairs and supplies), obtained a judicial hearing to have the vessel sold to pay its debts. By December 26, Texas agents in New York managed to raise the money to free both the Brutus and the Invincible so that they could return to Texas that winter.

1837

January 5: The Brutus, having been detained in New York since October 1836 under debt collection proceedings, manages to scrape together enough funding from Texas land speculators to pay enough debts to leave New York.

January 11: Resolution to recognize Texas introduced in the U.S. Senate.

January 17: General Santa Anna arrives in Washington, DC.

January 21: Navy Secretary S. Rhoads Fisher orders Commissary General Algernon S. Thruston to proceed to New Orleans to

purchase the privateers Thomas Toby and the Terrible. Neither vessel would ultimately be purchased.

January 26: Texas Congress passes a law providing for a new group of warships for the Texas Navy.

February: A mutiny took place aboard the privateer Thomas Toby in which the privateer's purser and doctor were murdered. The mutiny was quickly put down, and the mutineers were thrown into a New Orleans prison.

February 9: The Mexican central government announced a blockade of all ports of Texas. The warships Libertad, Iturbide, Vencedor del Alamo, Terán, Urrea and Bravo are dispatched to make the blockade effective. This move forces the Texas government to recall the Independence, which had anchored at New Orleans for supplies.

February 11: Commodore Charles E. Hawkins, commander-in-chief of the Texas Navy, dies of smallpox in New Orleans. He is buried with full military honors, and command of the Texas Navy devolves to Captain George Wheelwright.

February 27: Warship Invincible leaves New York for Galveston after a five-month layover for supplies and crewmen. The schooner had been seized by creditors to pay its substantial repair and supply bills, and was released after land speculators agreed to lend funds for the ships in return for land scrip, which could be redeemed for thousands of acres of Texas land.

March 3: U.S. recognizes the Republic of Texas, the last act of the Jackson Presidency.

March 11: Santa Anna, home in Mexico, renounces all guarantees made to the Republic of Texas as a condition to his restoration of freedom.

March 27: U.S. Secretary of State reports that treaty agreements with Mexico prohibit the U.S. annexing Texas.

April: Sometime this month, President Sam Houston appoints Henry Livingston Thompson as commander of the warship Invincible, replacing Captain Jeremiah Brown, who took the schooner to New York in the fall of 1836 in defiance of President Burnet's orders. Houston would fire Thompson by the fall for engaging in an unauthorized cruise against Mexican ships and coastal villages.

April 5: President Sam Houston orders

Secretary of the Navy Samuel Rhoads Fisher to Velasco to determine how best to deal with the rumored Mexican blockade. Houston's orders read: "You will proceed to Velasco forthwith, and if true as reported, there should be a Mexican Naval force off the mouth of Brazos. You will devise such measures for the defence of the coast, as may seem to you best, with all the means, which you can command. Do the best you can, as you will be upon the spot and can judge of the course most proper to be pursued."

April 10?: Around this time, the flagship Independence, under the command of Captain George W. Wheelwright, leaves New Orleans for Velasco on its final cruise.

April 12: The merchant schooner (and sometime gun-runner) Julius Caesar is captured by the brig General Urrea of the Mexican Navy during its spring 1837 blockade of the Texas coast. The merchant vessels Champion and Louisiana are also captured that same month.

April 15: The Texas warship Brutus arrives in Texas from a long absence in New York, short on men and provisions.

April 17: After a running battle lasting several hours, the eight-gun Independence is captured by the new Mexican brigs Vencedor

del Alamo (seven guns) and Libertador (sixteen heavy guns). Captured aboard the vessel are the Texas minister to the United States, William H. Wharton, as well as a wounded Commodore Wheelwright and a skeleton crew of green recruits. The surrender of the Texas flagship is within sight of Velasco, near the Texas capital of Columbia, and one of the outraged onlookers is none other than the Secretary of the Navy, Samuel Rhoads Fisher. The Independence would be transferred to the Veracruz Squadron of the Mexican Navy. That same day, Mexican President Anastasio Bustamente, in his inaugural address, pledges to reorganize his military to "preserve the rights of the nation," which includes the reconquest of Texas.

April 29: Texas Congress passes a resolution requesting that President Houston send the Brutus and Invincible to Matamoros on the Mexican coast to negotiate an exchange of Texas prisoners from the Independence for Mexican prisoners left over from the Battle of San Jacinto. Houston vetoes the measure on the grounds that it would be a risky and futile venture to send armed ships against a much stronger and with the larger Mexican Navy prowling the coast.

Texas Navy Flagship “The Battleship Texas” is 100 Years Old

Submitted By: Admiral Will Fisher IV



One hundred years ago, May 18, 1912, the Battleship Texas was touted as the world's most powerful warship when it was launched at a Newport News, Va. shipyard only one month after the Titanic sank. It is the only remaining US battleship to survive World Wars I and II. The Battleship Texas was named the [Flagship of the Texas Navy](#) in 1948 by Governor Jester and can be viewed and explored at the San Jacinto Battleground in LaPorte, Texas.

For more info and photos of our Flag Ship go to [NavSource On-Line](#)

Nautical Quiz Answer

b) A receding tide

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NOTE: Our Board of Directors/Board Emeritus can be recognized by the plain blue ribbon on the draped medal. At TNA events let's express our thanks for them volunteering their time and talents.

In Memory Of



Admiral John T. Scardasis
Admiral William T. McMullen

Fair Winds and Following Seas!

