

# The Invincible

## From the Helm

Texas Navy Association Members,

There is much to report, and all of it is exciting news about the activities of your association to preserve and promote the history and legacy of the little known but heroic Texas Navy of 1835-1846.

### TEXIAN NAVY DAY

Perhaps the biggest event your Texas Navy Association has participated in for many years was the 17 September Texian Navy day in Galveston. Admiral Beth Fisher, a direct descendant of Republic of Texas Secretary of the Navy, Samuel Rhodes Fisher, took it upon herself to organize this event that drew a crowd of over 200. Joining Texas Navy members and guests at this event were members and family of the Sons of the Republic of Texas, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, and several other heritage organizations. I was honored to be the

master of ceremonies of what turned out to be a two hour event, and every minute was entertaining and informative thanks to the program Beth put together.

Our speaker was J. P. Bryan, a noted historian and collector of Texana, and the founder of the recently opened Bryan Museum in Galveston. Mr. Bryan has a lifetime commitment to historic preservation and he gave a fascinating speech on the Texas Navy that was chock full of the interesting tidbits that make Texas history unlike the history of any other state or nation.

The following Texans were commissioned as brand new Texas Navy Admirals: J. P. Bryan, Nina Hendee, Denton Florian, Bill Haddock, Bob Steakley, and Steven Manis.

Both before and after the luncheon, attendees were able to enjoy specially arranged guided tours of the 1877 Tall Ship Elissa, the Bryan Museum, and the Rosenberg Library. Many luncheon participants spent Friday, Saturday or

both nights to enjoy Texas oldest and most historic coastal city.

Next year, the newest Texas Navy Association squadron, Galveston's own Charles E. Hawkins squadron will be organizing Texian Navy Day. The TNA has proposed to the Sons of the Republic of Texas that they join us in hosting the 2017 Texian Navy Day.

Considering the outstanding job done by Admiral Fisher, it will be difficult to make the event much better, but our Galveston crew will give it a try.

TNA vice president Admiral Dick Hatch assisted Beth in producing the commissioning ceremony, and members of the DRT provided able assistance as well.

Mark your calendar for the 3rd Saturday in September 2017 and we hope to see you again.

### TEXAS STATE CEMETERY MEMORIAL MARKER EVENT

Admiral Karen Thompson, the former



President General of the DRT and our chair of the TNA's Memorial Marker Committee, brought TNA members, lovers of Texas history, reenactors, three TV stations and the Austin American Statesman to the Texas State Cemetery to place Texas Navy medallions on four headstones of Texas Navy Veterans.

Among those remembered were Robert Potter who became Secretary of the Texas Navy in March of 1836. Potter is commonly referred to as the first Republic of Texas SecNav, albeit ad interim. Also honored were Captain Robert Oliver, Texas Marine Corps. Midshipman Fielding Culp, Texas Navy, and Lieutenant Charles Fuller, Texas Navy. Elsewhere in this newsletter are links to news clips and links to videos of the well attended event. Please check them out!

We hope to see you in Galveston on 12 November for the annual membership meeting of the TNA, as well as the 4th quarterly meeting of the TNA Board of Directors.

I will close with a loud and clear "Bravo Zulu" for the Admirals who continue to do good things to tell the story of our Texas Navy.

God Bless Texas



Jerry Patterson  
President,  
Texas Navy Association

## In more than one place at the same time...

The passenger steamer SS Warrimoo was quietly knifing its way through the waters of the mid-Pacific on its way from Vancouver to Australia. The navigator had just finished working out a star fix and brought the master, Captain John Phillips, the result. The Warrimoo's position was LAT 0° 31' N and LON 179° 30' W. The date was 30 December 1899.

"Know what this means?" First Mate Payton broke in, "We're only a few miles from the intersection of the Equator and the International Date Line". Captain Phillips was prankish enough to take full advantage of the opportunity for achieving the navigational freak of a lifetime. He called his navigators to the bridge to check and double check the ship's position. He changed course slightly so as to bear directly on his mark. Then he adjusted the engine speed.

The calm weather and clear night worked in his favour. At midnight the SS Warrimoo lay on the Equator at exactly the point where it crossed the International Date Line!

The consequences of this bizarre position were many. The forward part (bow) of the ship was in the Southern Hemisphere and the middle of summer. The rear (stern) was in the Northern Hemisphere and in the middle of winter. The date in the aft part of the ship was 31 December 1899. Forward it was 1 January 1900.

This ship was therefore not only in two different days, two different months, two different years, and two different seasons and but in two different centuries – all at the same time!

Submitted by: Adm Bill Turner



# Race the Atlantic

Three native Houstonians — Michael Matson, David Alviar, and Brian Krauskopf—will depart the Canary Islands to the coast of Africa on a 3,000 mile journey, unsupported across the Atlantic Ocean. Swells, exhaustion, hunger, sleepless nights, total



**MICHAEL MATSON**

Height: 6'0"  
Weight: 225  
Charity: AMS Foundation  
Hometown: Missouri City, TX  
College: U.S. Naval Academy  
Fear while at Sea: Time and distance apart from wife and children.



**BRIAN KRAUSKOPF**

Height: 6'3"  
Weight: 250  
Charity: Alzheimer Prevention/Cure  
Hometown: Houston, TX  
College: U. of South Alabama  
Fear while at Sea: Ocean rowing is nearly always naked rowing.



**DAVID ALVIAR**

Height: 5'11"  
Weight: 195  
Charity: Teach for America Houston  
Hometown: Houston, TX  
College: UT at Austin  
Fear while at Sea: Massive waves in the middle of the pitch black.

isolation, and an unforgiving sea are a few of the obstacles between us and crossing an ocean. Determined, resolute, and eager to champion our causes, nothing will prevent us from making this a reality.

On December 12, 2016, we leave La Gomera of the Canary Islands for Antigua in the Caribbean in an ocean double scull. Carrying all our own food and water, we'll trek across the waves undaunted in our mission. Rowing Across an Ocean: the 2016 Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge. Using only our oars as a power source, we plan to shatter three world rowing records:

The first Texans to row an ocean.

The first three-man boat to row across the Atlantic Ocean.

The fastest American boat to row the Atlantic Ocean in less than forty-five days.





## Commissions for Race the Atlantic Oarsmen and vessel "Ann"



Anne, the American Oarsmen's trusted rowboat, is now a commissioned ship in the Texas Navy - she will be the first ship in over 150 years to hit the high seas under that title! So grateful for all the help from the Texas Navy Association for letting us honor Fire Fighter Anne McCormick Sullivan, Houston Fire Department in such an amazing way!

Admiral Mike Matson

All three oarsmen were commissioned as Admirals in the Texas Navy by Governor Greg Abbott. Skipper Mike Matson received his commission first followed by commissions for his crew Brian Krauskopf and David Alviar

*Photo: (L) TNA President - Adm Jerry Patterson, Oarsmen - Adm Brian Krauskopf, Adm David Alviar, Skipper - Adm Mike Matson, Hawkins Squadron Commander - Adm Chester Barnes and TNA Vice-President - Adm Richard Hatch*





## Texas Navy Veterans Honored

A ceremony held on September 21st was for the placing of Texas Navy Association memorial medallions on the graves of four members of the long-defunct Texas Navy, which, unknown to many, played a key role in our history. The featured honoree was Potter, a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence and combatant at the Battle of San Jacinto. He served as a senator in the Congress of the Republic of Texas and as secretary of the Republic of Texas Navy. The function was chaired by our TNA Admiral and Board member Karen Thompson who did a remarkable job with her research and organization of the event. Congratulations Admiral Thompson.

Media coverage links: <http://www.mystatesman.com/news/news/local/herman-a-texas-hero-who-took-things-into-his-own-h/nscR3/>

<http://kxan.com/2016/09/21/texas-navy-hero-honored-with-ceremony-at-state-cemetery/>



*Reenactors at the graves of Republic of Texas sailors Robert Oliver, Fielding Culp and Charles Fuller*

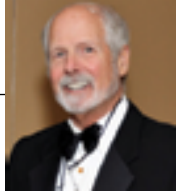


*TNA president Adm Jerry Patterson speaks about Robert Potter*



*Six TNA Admirals, from left, Karen Thompson, Memorial Medallion committee chair; Jerry Patterson, President; John Williams, Moore Squadron; Larry Schroeder, Moore Squadron; Bill Turner, past President TNA; Janie Babcock, vice-chair Memorial Medallion Committee.*

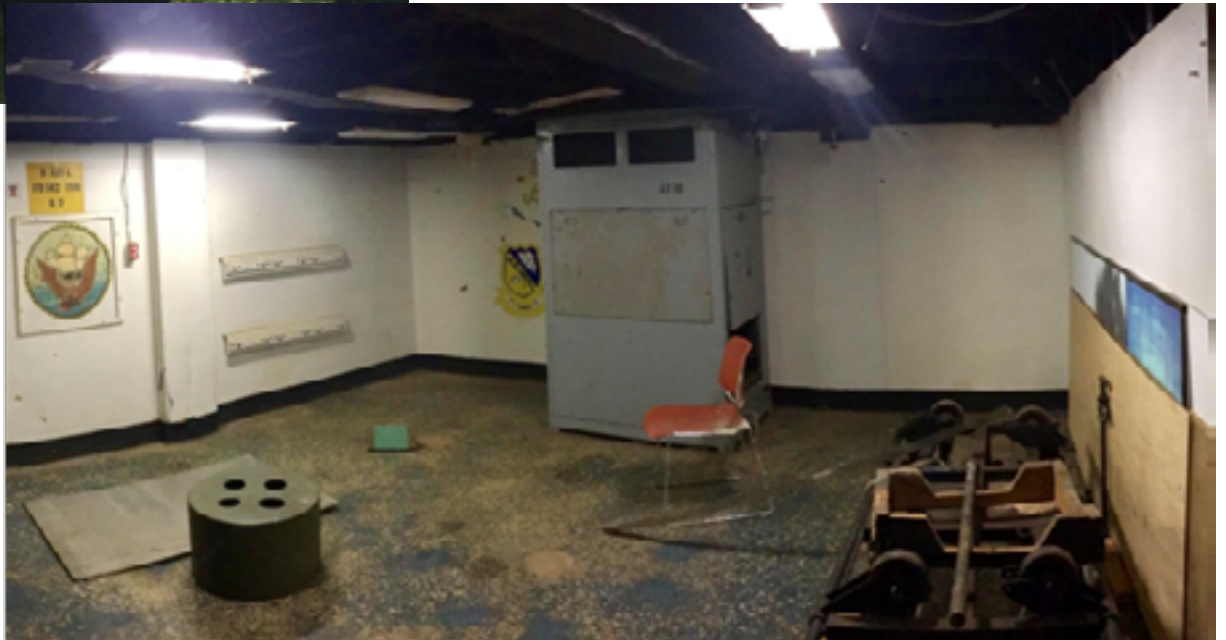




The 22 minute Texas Navy History Film Project moves forward. (Photo Left) Here, re-enactors rehearse a scene depicting the Texas Navy delivering captured Mexican supplies to the Texas Army.

**DONATE NOW!**  
(CLICK ON THIS LINK)

The Texas Navy will soon drop anchor aboard the USS Lexington in Corpus Christi. This 400 sq ft space (Photo Right) will be converted into a Texas Navy exhibit and an adjacent 300 sq ft space will become a 20 seat mini-theater. The theater will feature a shortened version of the Texas Navy History Film. Lexington hosts 300,000 visitors yearly.



## Sam Houston Squadron

On June 25, 2016 members of the Sam Houston Squadron along with representation from the Tom Toby and Charles Hawkins squadrons met in Galveston at the new United States Coast Guard facility.

After clearing security at 10AM, we assembled in the Administrative Building Classroom. We were met by Commander Shawn Whiteside, Master Chief James Clark, and ECN Lauren Kelly.

We all enjoyed an excellent presentation on the history of the Coast Guard and updates on current operations.

The Coast Guard began in 1790 when George Washington authorized 10 cutters to enforce the tariff and trade laws and to discourage smuggling. This was our nation's navy until the United States Navy was founded in 1898. In 1915, the Revenue Cutter Service was merged with the U.S. Life Saving Service, officially creating the U.S. Coast Guard. The U.S. Life Saving Service consisted of dozens of manned stations on the nation's shorelines who aided those in peril at sea. In 1939, Franklin Roosevelt ordered the transfer of the Lighthouse Service to the Coast Guard. Congress, in 1946, transferred the Commerce Department's Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation to the Coast Guard. The nation's ice-breakers are part of the Coast Guard.

When the United States entered World War I, the operations of the Coast Guard were transferred to the Navy.

During World War II, the Coast Guard was again made part of the Navy. The Coast Guard was heavily involved in rescuing sailors from ships sunk by submarines, convoy escort, and submarine

detection and elimination. The Coast Guard participated in the D-Day and North Africa amphibious landings. During the war, 11,000 women were members of the Coast Guard. Every armed conflict after World War II was aided by the members and marine craft of the Coast Guard. Today the Coast Guard is heavily involved in stemming the drug trade along with its historical role of marine safety and rescue.

Towards the end of our classroom session, we were introduced to a new free cell phone app, "United States Coast Guard". This app includes useful mariner information: state boating information, rules of the road, NOAA buoys, safety checks, safety equipment, float plans and how to report hazards, pollution, and suspicious activity.

After leaving the classroom, we walked to the docks through the Coast Guard facility. The new buildings were elevated and were of concrete construction. The grounds were well maintained. We went aboard several of the marine craft in the harbor. The crew members were friendly and professional. We could have spent more time on board but it began to rain.

We adjourned for lunch.

Lunch was hosted by the Olympia Pier 21 restaurant in their private dining room. We were treated to an excellent Greek buffet. Service was very good. After lunch, a number of us attended the Charles Hawkins Squadron meeting at the Rosenberg Library.





## C. E. Hawkins Squadron

The Charles E. Hawkins Squadron was officially recognized as an affiliate of the Texas Navy Association on September 17, 2016. President Adm Jerry Patterson presented the certificate of affiliation to Commander Admiral Chester F. Barnes, II who accepted the certificate on behalf of the members and officers of the squadron.

"We are very proud to become an official affiliate of the TNA. Many hours have been spent to bring this to fruition. I especially want to thank Vice President Adm Richard Hatch, Deputy Commander Butch Spafford, Adm Andy Hall, Adm Dennis Miller, Adm Lawren L. Hall, Adm Bill Rouse, Adm Rev. Stephen Duncan, Commander Brian Fitch, and especially Adm Judy Fisher.

The squadron had its beginning in the early spring when Adm Richard Hatch ask Adm Barnes to seek organizing a Galveston Squadron. After a meeting in Galveston the decision was made. Our first meeting

in March was well attended. The selection of potential officers was concluded.

The mission of the Hawkins Squadron is to bring to life the colorful history of the Texas Navy and its connection to winning independence from Mexico and the role Galveston played in these events.

Charles E. Hawkins was the commander of the first Texas Navy from 1835 to 1837. He was a United States Naval officer who served at one time in the Mexican navy.

To accomplish the mission of The Hawkins Squadron we have launched our outreach to the TNA, Texas and Galveston residents & student a "Lecture 'Series, which will feature well known speakers to present lectures on Texas Naval history and how the navy contributed to the defeat of Santa Anna @ San Jacinto on April 21, 1836.

The squadron's plans are to "outreach" to the community organizations including Galveston Historical

Commission, TAMUG, Sons of the Republic of Texas, Daughters of the Republic of Texas and Lafitte Society, Sea Scout Base Galveston, & public and private school students.

Projects under discussion: Naming of Texas Highway 3005 between Freeport and Galveston as "Texas Navy Highway" as the first shots of the Texas Navy were delivered off Ft. Velasco (Now Surfside Beach, Tx) and the home base of the Texas Navy was Galveston and the 2016-2017 Lecture Series.

Members joining the squadron between August 4th and December 31, 2016 will be awarded "Founding Member" certificates. Currently we have 23 certificates issued. Nine were presented at our 9/17/2016 meeting. The others will be presented over time.

Our next meeting will be on November 3rd with guest speaker Adm Jim Beville. *(See announcement on page 9)*

We look forward to a very exciting 2017 and are proud to be affiliated as a squadron with the TNA.





# Charles E. Hawkins Squadron

100% Affiliated Squadron of The TNA

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**C.E. Hawkins Squadron – Galveston**

**Nov. 3, 2016, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm**

**Admission & Parking: FREE**

**Location: Rosenberg Library (Wortham Auditorium) – 2310 Sealy Street (at 23rd), Galveston, Texas 77550**

### **“The First Texas Navy, 1835-1837”**

This powerful presentation takes place in the throes of the Texas Revolution, as the provisional government of Texas scrambled to put together a naval force to wreak havoc upon the Mexican supply lines. Having first resorted to the use of privateers (state sponsored pirates), Texas was able to borrow money in New Orleans in early 1836, to secure the warships Liberty, Invincible, Independence and the Brutus.

This is the story of those four ships, and the role which was played by McKinney & Williams, the Allen Brothers, Captains' Hawkins, Hurd, Thompson and Brown – and the significant contributions these aggressive men made on the high seas in the fight for Texas independence. Despite their heroic deeds, the navy soon found itself drowning in a sea of red ink, crippling the effectiveness of the fighting force as the flow of funds needed to maintain a strong military was quickly exhausted. This remarkable story of the first Texas Navy is triumphant, tragic and highly entertaining. It's not to be missed. (Approximately 35 minutes).

James P. Bevill is a Senior Vice President – Wealth Management in the River Oaks office of UBS Financial Services. He is the author of *The Paper Republic: The Struggle for Money, Credit and Independence in the Republic of Texas*, a non-fiction work on the social and economic history of Texas from the colonial period through the annexation by the United States in 1846. He served as guest curator for the TNA sponsored exhibit “Broadships in the Gulf” at the Texas Seaport Museum and “On the Run” at the Rosenberg Library in Galveston.

His book was named as the 2010 winner of the Summerfield G. Roberts literary award by the Sons of the Republic of Texas, and as the Best Specialized book on U.S. Paper Money by the Numismatic Literary Guild at the ANA World's Fair on Money in Boston.

Book Information: *The Paper Republic* [www.BrightSkyPress.com](http://www.BrightSkyPress.com)





## E. W. Moore Squadron

The E. W. Moore Squadron held our July Squadron Quarterly Meeting at Texas Land & Cattle Restaurant's "Longhorn Room" on July 10, 2016 in Austin, Texas. Although many of our squadron members were away on summer adventures of their own, the attendance was good.

Admiral Steven von Roeder, Squadron Sgt-at-Arms, secured the hatch at 1300 hours. Admiral Mike Young, Squadron Deputy Commander, led our "Opening Ceremony" with the "Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag," the "Pledge to the Texas Flag" and the "E. W. Moore Squadron Mission" statement. Admiral Gordon Kelso, Squadron Chaplain, graced us once again with a wonderful invocation.

Admiral Wayne Courrages welcomed guests, many of whom were spouses and first time attendees. Admiral Steve Lucas traveled all the way from North Texas to be with us because of the encouragement and friendship of Admiral Steven and Yellow Rose Lyn von Roeder. We also enjoyed Jim Dougherty and his wife Jane joining us because of their friendship with Admiral Gordon and Rita Kelso. We are looking forward to Jim becoming an admiral soon.

We encourage guests, family members and spouses to join us. It makes it more enjoyable for us all!

***Our squadron has a full complement of officers, but a Squadron Photographer is needed. If you would like to volunteer for this position, please let it be known as you are very needed!***



(L) Past Squadron Commander -Adm Larry Schroeder, Martha Schroeder, Lyn von Roeder, Adm Steven von Roeder and Squadron Deputy Commander - Adm Mike Young.

Admiral Mike Young, Squadron Deputy Commander, honored two of the ladies of our squadron with the "Yellow Rose of Texas" award. Martha Schroeder and Lyn von Roeder were so honored by Governor Abbott for their long dedicated service to our community and the state of Texas! Thank you for all you have done through the years to benefit so many and congratulations!





*Seated Front and center: Admiral Beth Fisher - guest speaker*

Admiral Beth Fisher was our honored speaker. She shared with us the story of Price Daniel and the Third Texas Navy. The whole meeting and presentation was very relaxed and enjoyed by all. Our special thanks to Admiral Beth for traveling so far to give such an interesting presentation on the important role Governor Price Daniel played in cementing a place of honor for the Republic of Texas Navy!

The meeting concluded at 1510 hours with many continuing to talk with Admiral Beth.....



# TNA Admiral Awarded "2016 Sailors of the Year"



*Editor of Sailing Today magazine, Sam Fortescue holds "Sailors of the Year" award while Adm Bill Rouse and Judy Rouse are on video accepting this great honor.*



*Admiral Bill Rouse and wife Judy on board "BeBe"*

Against four other nominees for 2016 Sailors of the Year award Admiral Bill Rouse and his wife Judy Rouse were chosen for this wonderful honor.

Bill and Judy got the bug for sailing right here in Galveston, Texas on the shores of Crystal beach playing in the sand and watching boats and sail boats as they past by.

They were asked to attend the champagne reception and award ceremony but could not because of a conflict. They departed Texas for Trinidad and back to BeBe on September 21. They will be aboard BeBe until late January when they deliver her to her new owners. They have lived aboard BeBe for almost 11 years, circumnavigating the world and visiting 57 countries. Judy says her favorite places are Vanuatu and Turkey while Bill favored the Canary Islands. Beginning February they will live in their bungalow in Galveston. Both Adm Bill Rouse and Judy Rouse are members of the new C. E. Hawkins Squadron.



# TNA Admirals Make Good Use of Their Time!



Past Presidents General of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas (2011 - 2013), Admiral Karen Thompson - TNA Board Member, while on vacation presented Tennessee's Secretary of State, Tre Hargett, a flag that flew over the Alamo in honor of David Crockett and the 30 men from Tennessee that died at the Alamo. Admiral Thompson represented Texas well!



Our Admirals just can't help themselves! When Admiral Chester Barnes - Commander of the "New" Charles E. Hawkins Squadron, was faced with quadruple bypass surgery in 2012, he had to pass the time. So he spent 3 months of his 5 month recovery time building a model of the "Invincible". Whatelse would you expect a Texas Navy Admiral to want to do?



## TNA Affiliated Squadrons

### **Chester W. Nimitz Squadron**

If you live in the Dallas area and are interested in joining a Squadron you may contact Squadron Commander Admiral John Creel at [grumps1@verizon.net](mailto:grumps1@verizon.net)

### **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, Admiral Marsha Taylor, at [marshataylor1@icloud.com](mailto:marshataylor1@icloud.com)

### **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 Admiral Wayne Courreges [wcourreges@icloud.com](mailto:wcourreges@icloud.com) ; 512-422-1300

### **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)

### **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)

### **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 [cfbarnes2@hotmail.com](mailto:cfbarnes2@hotmail.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 Dick Hatch at [rhatch@texasnavy.com](mailto:rhatch@texasnavy.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 Ships Store

**The Holiday Season is almost here! Are you going to be ready?**

Shop the TNA Ships Store for your holiday needs this year. We have new items that will sure to please the Admiral, Commander or Lieutenant in your family. Get ahead of the busy season and order now!



This sunset painting portrays the Texas Navy Flagship Invincible giving her Mexican adversaries a last shot as she heads for the entrance to Galveston Channel. The Mexican warships, Iturbide and Libertador had fought the single Texian ship for three hours, trying to trap her, while Invincible tried to lead them toward an inshore grounding. 24 inches x 36 inches Giclee on canvas. Allow three to four weeks for delivery



New high profile structured cap with admirals scrambled eggs. The cap has a mesh structure for ventilation. The cap is smart and comfortable.



Texas Navy Logo embroidered on 100% cotton Velour 3 lbs. 16"x26". Silver color.



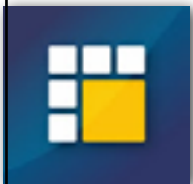
Our Lady Admirals will enjoy this "For Admirals Only" 4 Star Admiral pin designed by Admiral Judy Fisher and made by Pamela Wright Jewelry especially for the Texas Navy Association. 4 stars are filled with Swarovski crystals. Size: approximately 2 3/4 inches by 1 inch. Beautiful evening wear with brilliant sparkling stars.



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Many thanks to our Ships Store Sponsor



Uncle Bob's  
Storage

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 [richardbhatch@gmail.com](mailto:richardbhatch@gmail.com)

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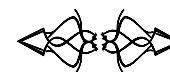


## In Memory Of

Admiral Terry McKee

Admiral Edward Joseph Walsh, Jr.

*Fair Winds and Following Seas*



I would like to make a Donation to a  
Project of the Texas Navy Association.

[DONATE NOW](#)

*The Texas Navy Association wishes to acknowledge Albert Richard Elam for a contribution to the Texas Navy Association's historical film project in memory of [Sarah Laschinger Greene](#), former Gilmer Mirror Publisher.*