

# aush NEWS

A Voice for the Officers & Sailors of the U.S. Sea Services



Loren Page and Honorable Carlos Del Toro, Secretary of the US Navy

## AUSN 1ST QUARTER 2023 REPORT

By CAPT Loren Page USN (Ret)

Your Association of the United States Navy (AUSN) ended 2022 with an annual meeting from Headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. Members joined in person and virtually via Zoom's live video capabilities.

During the first 2023 Board of Directors meeting in January,

- Strategic Planning Committee Chair Claudia Mansfield Sutton reported the future to include increased member engagement, financial stability and lobbying Congress on issues that involve the Sea Services of the United States of America.
- Nominating Committee Chair Daniel Howard presented the Board nominees to be voted on by the AUSN membership in June 2023.
- Treasurer CB Davis presented the financial report, which showed \$3.5 million cash and investments in the bank.

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## 2023 1ST QUARTER PROGRESS REPORT & NEWSLETTER

- Interim Executive Director Loren Page gave an overview of AUSN operations being performed by contract individuals in administration, internet services and accounting.
- AUSN Board Chair Dan Felix provided guidance and supported the Strategic Planning Committee's report to be used for the activities in 2023 and beyond

AUSN had an exhibit booth at the Surface Navy Association's conference where the Honorable Carlos Del Toro, Secretary of the US Navy, stopped by to visit and get an update of AUSN's current activities and plans for supporting the officers and sailors of the United States Sea Services.

This year we contracted with the same publisher that was used in 2015 and two previous times to gather updated information for a directory on AUSN members. Members will have the opportunity to purchase the directory, which is voluntary. The work done by the publisher is at no cost to AUSN.

Board members have been assigned to committees by Chair Dan Feliz. AUSN District and Chapter volunteers will be invited to join as well. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the AUSN office.

Please be a recruiter for AUSN by sharing AUSN with fellow sea service colleagues, friends and family. Signing up is quick and easy right on [AUSN.org](https://ausn.org).

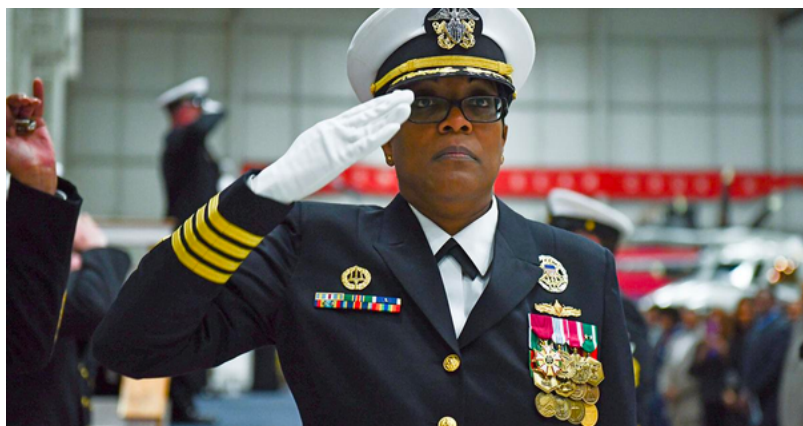


2022 Surface Navy Association's conference



## US NAVY & US ARMY CELEBRATE MILITARY WOMEN'S ACHIEVEMENTS

From taking on the command of the largest US Navy base in the world to being part of the fly-over Navy aviators at the Super Bowl to honoring the service of women of the US Army's 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion of W/WII – military women were highly recognized during Women's History Month in March. Enjoy reading the three articles that follow.



# SUPER BOWL HISTORY

## ALL-FEMALE NAVY AVIATION TEAM TO CONDUCT FLYOVER AT SUPER BOWL LVII

## THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMANDING OFFICER THE WORLD'S LARGEST NAVAL BASE

By AUSN Staff Writer

Captain Janet Days made history in February when she became the Naval Station Norfolk's 51st commanding officer. She is the first African American commanding officer in the 106-year history of the world's largest naval base. Days previously served as the base's executive officer.

NBC's Today Show recognized Captain Days for her leadership and outstanding career with a major feature on the show during Women's History Month in March. When asked what it meant to her to be the first, she replied, "It means that I'm not the last. It always takes the first and after that, it's game on...My dad had a huge influence on me joining the military."



USS SIMON LAKE (AS 33)

Days' sea assignments include tours aboard USS Simon Lake (AS 33) homeported at La Maddalena, Italy; USS Mahan (DDG 72); and USS Forrest Sherman (DDG 98) as engineer officer, completing two deployments, one to the US Central Command (USCENTCOM) area of responsibility (AOR) to conduct theater security cooperation and a subsequent deployment to the US Southern Command AOR to conduct counter-narcotics operations.

Days served as the Destroyer Squadron 28 material officer (N4) and staff director embarked aboard USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69), where she completed two deployments to the USCENTCOM AOR in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Captain Janet H. Days, a native of Chicago, graduated summa cum laude from Old Dominion University in 1999 with a Bachelor of Science in Business and received her commission through Naval ROTC via the Enlisted Commissioning Program. She holds a Master of Business Administration from the Naval Postgraduate School and concurrently earned the Naval War College command and staff diploma.



## **SUPER BOWL LVII FLYOVER COMMEMORATED 50 YEARS OF WOMEN FLYING IN THE US NAVY**

By AUSN Staff Writer

The military flyover at Super Bowl LVII commemorated 50 years of women flying in the US Navy and showed off the electronic capabilities of the elite aircraft, military officials announced. Three US Navy tactical aircraft squadrons flew over State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Arizona, immediately following the playing of the National Anthem on Sunday, February 12.



The flyover team for Super Bowl LVII included, from left to right, Lt. Arielle Ash of Abilene, Texas; Lt. Margaret Dente of North Salem, New York; Lt. Naomi Ngalle of Springfield, Virginia; Lt. Jacqueline Drew of Waltham, Massachusetts; Lt. Suzelle Thomas of Birmingham, Alabama; and, Lt. Kathryn Martinez, also of Springfield, Virginia. (Image from U.S. Navy Office of Information)

The 2023 commemoration came 50 years after the first women enrolled in the US Navy flight program in 1973. Six of the eight initial enrollees, titled "The First Six," earned their Wings of Gold the following year. Navy Captain Rosemary Mariner, one of the Navy's first female jet pilots, passed away January 24, 2019, following a long and brave fight with cancer.

The flyover formation included two F/A-18F Super Hornets from the "Flying Eagles" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 122 and an F-35C Lightning II from the "Warhawks" of VFA-97, both squadron personnel based at Naval Air Station (NAS) in Lemoore, California.

They were joined by an EA-18G Growler from the "Vikings" of Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 129, based at NAS Whidbey Island in Oak Harbor, Washington.



## US ARMY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION CELEBRATES LEADERSHIP & SCHOLARSHIPS

By AUSN Staff Writer

The US Army Women's Foundation celebrated Women's History Month on March 22 at Veterans Hall at The National Museum of the United States Army. They inducted six new Hall of Fame honorees, two champion award winners and 26 scholarship recipients.

Commander Carlton D. Philpot, US Navy (Ret.), was honored with the US Army Women's Foundation Champion Award.

Philpot worked for more than three decades to recognize and honor the contributions, service, and sacrifices of African American military units and individuals who have served with courage, honor, and unselfish devotion.



Commander Carlton D. Philpot, US Navy (Ret.)

As chairman and project director of the Buffalo Soldier Monument Committee, Philpot's efforts ensured the building of lasting monuments to recognize the service and sacrifices of military women and men. In 2018, the seventh monument was dedicated and honors the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, the only predominately African American Women's Army Corps unit deployed overseas during W/WII. Because of his significant contributions, generations will know Cathay Williams-the only known Female Buffalo Soldier, LTC Charity Adams Earley, LTC Harriet Waddy, and the women of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion.



CW4 (Ret) Nicole Burkett (right) was presented the inaugural Six Triple Eight Legacy Scholarship by US Army Women's Foundation President BG (Ret) Anne Macdonald (left)

### The Hall of Fame honorees included the following:

- The Honorable M. Tia Johnson, Colonel, US Army (Ret.)
- Lieutenant General Flora D. Darpino, US Army (Ret.)
- Lieutenant General Susan S. Lawrence, US Army (Ret.)
- Brigadier General Rebecca "Becky" S. Halstead, US Army (Ret.)
- Brigadier General Velma "Von" L. Richardson, US Army (Ret.)
- Command Sergeant Major Debra L. Strickland, US Army (Ret.)



## AUSN & PCI PARTNER IN PRODUCTION OF MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY & DATA UPDATE

By AUSN Staff Writer

AUSN is working with Publishing Concepts (PCI), a contractor that is producing and printing a directory which will update our member records and collect valuable member stories. The publication will include a full-color glossy front section with historical information about AUSN and the US Navy.

From March through September 22, 2023, the PCI team will contact members via postcard and email to collect your unique story and give you the ability to submit photos so your US Navy career can be preserved for generations to come.

If you don't receive a postcard or email, you can call to update your information, and you can tell the representative if you prefer to exclude any of your information. You also can communicate your preferences to PCI's customer service help desk at [customerservice@publishingconcepts.com](mailto:customerservice@publishingconcepts.com) or call 1-855-303-9221.

The names, addresses and information provided to PCI for the publication of the directory will be held confidential by PCI, except to the extent that they are utilized in, or in the preparation of, the AUSN Membership Directory and except as required by court order or law.

It is your choice to be included in the directory. We encourage you to do so to stay connected with your AUSN friends and to help AUSN maintain up-to-date information about you. In addition to your contact information, you can submit a photo and/or a short essay about you and your service.

The phone number for you to respond is not an AUSN number. It is a direct number to the publisher, PCI. This is the same way that each of the data gathering cycles has been done for the last four directories. The last AUSN Membership Directory was published in 2015. Please call or email AUSN Headquarters with any questions or concerns. We really enjoy hearing from you!

There's no cost to be included in the membership directory. If you choose to purchase the directory, you can reserve your copy when you update your data. The last day to update your data and to purchase the directory is September 22, 2023. It will be available in hardbound book and/or digital version.

For more information, see our article about the [AUSN Directory](#) on our [website](#).



## PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIPS TO OUR AUSN YOUTH

By AUSN Staff Writer

The AUSN Scholarship Program, which was started in 1999, awards up to \$25,000 a year in scholarships to members who are undergraduate and graduate students; children and grandchildren of AUSN members; and surviving spouses of deceased members. The program has awarded more than \$500,000 in scholarships during the past 20 years.

**"AUSN supports higher education and the advancement for America's youth,"** says CDR Joseph Quaglini, Vice Chairman of the AUSN Board and Chair of the Scholarship Committee.



The AUSN Scholarship Committee selects applicants based on financial need, scholastic achievements, leadership ability, personal qualities and work history.

### To qualify for a scholarship, you must meet the following requirements:

- The student must be a relative of an AUSN member
- Must be entering an undergraduate program or accredited technical institution
- Apply during senior year of high school through senior year in college or technical institution
- Maintain an average of 15 credits, with a minimum of 12 credit hours in any semester or quarter
- Maintain a grade point average of 2.5 or above

Watch for an announcement in your email in the next few weeks which will include an application and timeline for applications and awards.

## 2022 AUSN SCHOLARSHIP RESULTS

The Association of the U.S. Navy awarded \$54,000 to AUSN family members who started attending undergraduate programs Fall of 2022. The AUSN scholarship program has awarded more than \$500,000 to well-deserving students over the past 20 years, supporting the sons and daughters of AUSN members,

The 2022 AUSN scholarships were awarded to 21 exceptional students. Five scholarship recipients are either in the Reserve Officer's Training Corps, are planning on entering military service, or plan to work on veteran's issues. And 19 are entering fields such as engineering, science, aerospace, math, or computer science.



## MIDSHIPMEN SUPPORT THE NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS MEMORIAL DEDICATION

By MIDN 3/C Mariah Lopez

No matter the branch, representation in the ranks is important. Knowing your predecessors, beyond the lore and the legends, is crucial to understanding the legacy you carry. Not only does it humanize those who came before, but it creates a realistic and relatable vision of the path you will walk yourself. This past Veterans' Day, a group of Naval Academy Midshipmen did just that, as history took place on the National Mall during the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indians (NMAI Smithsonian) unveiling of the long-awaited National Native American Veterans' Memorial in Washington DC.



From left to right: MIDN 3/C Miguel Ferraro, USN; MIDN 3/C Verdo Young, USN; MIDN 3/C Mariah Lopez, USN, NAHC President (Cherokee/Yaqui); MIDN 3/C Cat Chelius, USN, NAHC Vice President; Mr. Regan Hawthorne, Army Veteran (Navajo); United States Military Academy Cadet of the Navajo Nation; Major Patrick Sorensen, United States Army, USMA Native American Program Advisor (Chinook); Dr. Christy Stanlake, Ph.D., NAHC Faculty Advisor.

The Veterans' Day Procession was attended by members of the Native community from all over the United States. Those in attendance included one of three remaining Navajo Code Talkers, prior and current service men and women, and the future leaders of our military.

The United States Naval Academy's Native American Heritage Club (NAHC) is a cultural affinity organization within the United States Naval Academy, promoting cultural awareness, diversity, and inclusivity as they educate the Brigade of Midshipmen about the various histories of indigenous cultures and communities.

## Honoring the Military Service of Native Americans

The National Native American Veterans Memorial opened on November 11, 2020, on the grounds of the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC. The memorial was dedicated with a procession and ceremony on the National Mall on November 11, 2022. This tribute to Native heroes recognizes for the first time on a national scale the enduring and distinguished service of Native Americans in every branch of the US military.

## HONORING THE SWIFT BOAT PCF-816

By LCDR David M. Bradley, USN (Ret)

I believe that the Swift Boat is important as it tells the story of the Navy's operations in Vietnam to those who didn't serve in that conflict and to those who came after us. As a volunteer aboard her twice daily harbor cruises on the weekends, I have seen firsthand how it provides some amount of closure to the Vietnam vets who ride her. She also serves as a memorial to not only the more than 3,000 American sailors serving in Swift Boats, but also the 50 sailors who were killed in action. Every Vietnam veteran who comes aboard is recognized, given a handshake and a "Welcome Home."



Swift Boat PCF-816 - Maritime Museum of San Diego

## SWIFT BOAT NAVAL HISTORY TOUR

Be a part of history, ride the only active passenger-carrying Swift Boat in the country. Feel the power of the twin 12 cylinder 2-stroke Detroit Diesels as you take a behind-the-scenes, 75-minute narrated tour of San Diego's military history.

The tour route heads under Coronado Bay Bridge, Naval Base San Diego, and Naval Amphibious Base. It then heads back by the aircraft carrier basin and Naval Air Station North Island before returning to the Museum. Plus, enjoy a high-speed run to feel the unique power of the Swift Boat.



## 2023 1ST QUARTER PROGRESS REPORT & NEWSLETTER

The Swift Boat was one of the boats we trained on before going to Vietnam and taking over a boat from a departing crew. In 1972, no longer required for training, she and a sister boat (PCF-813) were given to the country of Malta where they were the nucleus of Malta's maritime patrol force. During an operation taking illegal fireworks out to sea for disposal, PCF-813 had a fire and explosion that killed seven of the eight individuals aboard.



AS PART OF OUR AGREEMENT WITH THE ARMED FORCES OF MALTA, WE HONOR NOT ONLY THEIR SEVEN BUT OUR 50 WHOM WE REFER TO AS "STILL ON PATROL." THE BOAT FLIES THE MALTESE FLAG ALONG WITH THE AMERICAN FLAG IN HONOR OF ALL THOSE SAILORS.

I trained on these boats in Coronado and served on Swift Boats in Vietnam from 1967-68. Her importance as one of the last surviving operational icons of that conflict is of great value. We tell the story of not only some of the combat operations and the seaward interdiction of supplies from the North, but also of operations in the Mekong Delta, including the many humanitarian efforts we performed. She is one of the few survivors of that conflict and a living, breathing connection and an icon of the Navy's involvement. The Swift Boat was added to the National Register of Historic Places, along with three other vessels at the Maritime Museum of San Diego.

## SECRETARY OF THE NAVY ANNOUNCES NEW NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE U.S. NAVY

By AUSN Staff Writer

The Honorable Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro announced the Department of the Navy's preferred location for a new National Museum of the United States Navy (NMUSN) during an event on October 18, 2022, at the Washington Navy Yard, in Washington, DC, to celebrate the service's 247th birthday.



As confirmed by the Naval History and Heritage Command, the museum will be located at the Washington Navy Yard and is responsible for preserving, analyzing, and disseminating US naval history and heritage. It provides the knowledge foundation for the Navy by maintaining historically relevant resources and products that reflect the Navy's unique and enduring contributions through our nation's history and supports the fleet by assisting with and delivering professional research, analysis, and interpretive services. AUSN Interim Executive Director Loren Page had the opportunity to attend the event. The Navy Museum could be a chance for AUSN to be at the forefront of preserving naval history and looking to the future.



(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Abigail Lutz)