



Companion COL Jerry and Bonnie Webb visit the January meeting from Colorado.

THE COMPANION



San Diego Chapter
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CHANGE

One of the unabridged dictionaries in my library defines “change” as making or becoming different, the substitution of one thing or set of conditions for another, and a round or sequence of steps in a dance.

Writing in the 6th and 5th Centuries BC, the Greek philosopher, Heraclitus (540-480 BC) stated: “Nothing endures but change.”

Change can make people uncomfortable and they are inclined to resist it, preferring the known to the unknown. American publisher and author William Feather (1889-1981) said: “Change, not habit, is what gets most of us down. Habit is the stabilizer of human society, change accounts for its progress.” One is reminded of the ancient Greek poet Homer (800-700 BC) who penned in The Odyssey: “The minds of the everlasting Gods are not changed suddenly” and, again, in The Iliad: “Young men’s minds are always changeable, but when an old man is concerned in a matter, he looks before and after.” Coming forward in time, we find these words of the legendary Greek philosopher Plato

(428-348 BC) for the younger members of society: “You are young, my son, and, as the years go by, time will change and even reverse many of your present opinions. Refrain therefore awhile from setting yourself up as a judge of the highest matters.” (Dialogues, Theatetus).

The June edition of the Mayo Clinic Health Letter addresses the condition of the older generation and dealing with change, declaring: “Aging is a time of transition and change – retiring, the death of a loved one, moving to a smaller home – which can be very hard to deal with. But regardless of how change occurs, the way you handle it is often the most influential factor in how it impacts your health. Social connections play a vital role in your health and well-being, especially during times of change and transition. When support and companionship comes from relatives, friends, a religious group – or even a pet – these ties remain a constant force when there’s upheaval in another area of life.”

A popular adage among New Englanders is: “Life is all about

change.” More recently, song writer Bob Dylan captured this thought in his song titled The Times They Are A-Changin’. Earlier, the famed British poet, Lord Alfred Tennyson (1875-1963), gave this thought a theological tone when he said: “The old order changeth, yielding place to new, and God fulfills himself in many ways.” (Idylls of the King).

Art Linkletter died at the age of 97. Like many of my generation, I grew up with him and his programs People are Funny and Kids Say the Darndest Things. In his book Confessions of a Happy Man he recounted how he had been abandoned by his family when only a few weeks old. He was adopted by Fulton John and Mary Linkletter, moving to San Diego when he was 5 years old, graduated from high school when he was 16 and subsequently graduated from what we now know as San Diego State University, with a Major in Psychology. He is survived by his wife of 74 years, Lois. No strangers to tragedy, their 20-year-old daughter

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JROTC FOOD DRIVE SURPASSES GOAL

The San Diego Unified School District JROTC Food Drive is an annual community service project to support our city in collecting food during the holiday season. Given the economic struggles by many in San Diego, JROTC cadets set a goal of surpassing last year's collec-



tion of 22,995lbs. Together with friends, families, school faculty and students, the thirteen JROTC units collected an amazing 31,829 lbs. Donations of canned and dried goods went to various local charities, churches and food banks to be distributed to families just before the holidays. In the past five years, JROTC cadets have contributed over 82,000lbs of food to our community. Each year, special recognition is given to the school which donates the largest amount and this year's Community Service streamer will be presented to Pt Loma High School. In 2nd Place was Scripps Ranch HS and San Diego HS placed third. We thank all cadets for their donations to this worthy event.

Companion LTC (Ret) David T. Guzman
JROTC Program Manager



Continued from page 1...

ter, Diane, took her own life. A son, Robert, died in a car crash in 1980. Another son, Jack, was 70 when he died of lymphoma in 2007. For many of us the change that silenced a man who wrote a book titled Hobo On the Way to Heaven is difficult to realize.

One of my favorite British figures is the English politician and author, Benjamin Disraeli (1804-1881). I remember him for having said: "In a progressive country, change is constant; change is inevitable." The words of British Prime Minister James Harold Wilson (1916-1995) are germane: "He who resists change is the architect of decay" (Strasbourg, France, January 23, 1967).

Companion Ted Atwood, Captain, Chaplain Corps, USN (Retired)

PRAYERS FOR OUR COUNTRY

"This month in which we celebrate love points to you, Father God. Thank you for showing us what love is and for placing within us the capacity to love. When I think of the innumerable ways we find, here in the United States, to express our love for each other, it warms my heart. I have to smile at the dozen of people standing around the greeting-card racks, shopping in earnest for just the right way to say "I love you" on Valentine's Day. Enlarge our love for one another this year to include not only those in our most intimate circles but also those who share our love for America, our home sweet home."

Prayers for our Country Daily Prayer Book
February 14.

HISTORICAL TIDBITS

The month of February is a very busy one from a historical perspective. It is the month of Washington and Lincoln's births, the Yalta Conference, John Glenn's orbital space flight and the end of the first Gulf War among others. The historical event which I would like to review in this article is perhaps less well known than the ones noted above but it is of major significance to the traditions of the US Navy. It is the burning of the frigate *USS PHILADELPHIA* which occurred on 16 February 1804.

In May, 1801, in response to acts of piracy and ransom demands by the Barbary States of Tunis, Algiers and Tripoli, President Thomas Jefferson dispatched a squadron of ships of the fledgling US Navy to the Mediterranean Sea to patrol the area and protect US merchant shipping from the pirates. On October 31, 1803, the *USS PHILADELPHIA* pursued what it believed to be a pirate vessel into Tripoli harbor. When it became clear to the *PHILADELPHIA*'s captain, William Bainbridge, that he would be unable to capture or sink the pirate vessel before it reached the safety Tripoli's inner harbor, he attempted to turn his ship around to leave the harbor. During this maneuver, he ran the ship aground on an uncharted reef. Despite the crew's best efforts to free the ship from the reef, it remained stuck fast. When it became clear that efforts to free the ship were useless, the crew attempted, equally unsuccessfully, to scuttle it. Eventually both the ship and its crew were captured.

While the officers and crew of the *PHILADELPHIA* were imprisoned, the pirates managed to free the ship from the reef and anchored it in Tripoli's inner harbor. This presented the US Navy with a major problem. The Tripolitan pirates were now in possession of a state of the art warship which, once it was repaired, would increase their combat power exponentially. Even if the Tripolitans could not make use of the vessel themselves, they could sell to another maritime power which could possibly use it against the US in the future. Neither of these alternatives was acceptable the Americans.

While the Commander of the Mediterranean Squadron, Edward Preble, was deciding what to do about this problem, Stephen Decatur, a relatively junior officer, in command of the sloop *USS ENTERPRISE* presented him with a daring plan to burn the *PHILADELPHIA* in Tripoli harbor. His plan did not attempt to recapture the *PHILADELPHIA* since he felt it was unlikely that it could be recaptured and sailed from Tripoli harbor safely. Preble accepted the plan and ordered Decatur to implement it.

Decatur then repaired a minimally damaged cap-

tured Tripolitan ketch named the *MASTICO* and renamed it the *USS INTREPID*. To this ship, he transferred 70 sailors and 9 marines, all volunteers, from his crew and set sail for Tripoli. He arrived there on 16 February 1804 and boldly sailed into the harbor under a British flag, posing as a merchantman from Malta. He brought his ship alongside *PHILADELPHIA* with the help of the crew guarding the *PHILADELPHIA* after claiming that he had lost his anchors in a recent

storm and was unable to anchor his ship. The guard crew on the *PHILADELPHIA* obligingly allowed him to tie his ship up alongside the *PHILADELPHIA* and as soon as his ship was made fast, Decatur gave the order to board. His men quickly scrambled aboard and after a brief fight in which 19 of the Tripolitans were killed and one severely wounded, they captured the ship. The Americans suffered only one wounded in the fight. The remaining Tripolitans aboard scrambled over the side and swam for the nearby shore. The Americans quickly placed incendiary devices at strategic places around the ship and within minutes of Decatur's order, the ship was ablaze from stem to stern. The Americans reboarded *INTREPID* and headed out to sea under ineffectual fire from Tripoli's coastal forts. The *PHILADELPHIA* was totally destroyed. She burned for over 24 hours and her flames could be seen 40 miles out to sea.

Decatur and his crew were feted as heroes when they returned and no less a person than Admiral Horatio Nelson described their actions as, "The most daring of the Age." Decatur and his men contributed to the US Navy traditions of initiative, daring and intrepidity which are still an integral part of the service today.

**Companion Thomas J. Marshall, Jr.
MD FACS CAPT MC USN (Ret.)**



"Burning of the USS Philadelphia" by Edward Moran - Naval History and Heritage Command: Photo #: KN-10849 (Color). Licensed under Public Domain via Wikimedia Commons - http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Burning_of_the_uss_philadelphia.jpg#mediaviewer/File:Burning_of_the_uss_philadelphia.jpg

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ELECTED**

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APPOINTED

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- ◆ Perpetual Membership, granted once for life and perpetuity.
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The San Diego Chapter convenes monthly for luncheon meetings and conducts numerous special activities with and for civic, educational, and service programs. Visitors are welcome and are encouraged to contact the Chapter for dates, times, and locations of current meetings.

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER WEBSITE
www.sandiego-moww.org



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 20 February 2015

The Preamble

- ◆ To cherish the memories and associations of the World Wars waged for humanity;
- ◆ To inculcate and stimulate love of our Country and the Flag;
- ◆ To promote and further patriotic education in our Nation;
- ◆ Ever to maintain law and order, and to defend the honor, integrity, and supremacy of our National Government and the Constitution of the United States;
- ◆ To foster fraternal relations among all branches of the Armed Forces;
- ◆ To promote the cultivation of Military, Naval and Air Science and the adoption of a consistent and suitable policy of National Security for the United States of America;
- ◆ To acquire and preserve records of individual services;
- ◆ To encourage and assist in the holding of commemorations and the establishment of Memorials of the World Wars;
- ◆ And to transmit all these ideals to posterity, under God and for our Country, we unite to establish;
- ◆ "The Military Order of the World Wars."

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is now accepting nominations for the two elected positions of Chapter Commander and Senior Vice Commander. Nominations must be received by the chair on or before 23 February. The committee will report the names of nominees at the March staff meeting as outlined in our chapter bylaws.

Capt Debbie Kash, Chair
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FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 12 LT John Gewalt
- 12 LT Darryl Peralta
- 23 LTC Ray Roth
- 24 LTC Joe Hill



MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

- 48 MAJ Omer Hall
- 39 RADM Robert Erly
- 38 CAPT Alden Holmes
- 35 CDR Henry Johnson
- 30 CAPT Ted Atwood, Jr
- 30 CWO Michael Gamber
- 29 COL Pete Houben
- 12 Capt Debbie Kash
- 09 HPM Beverly Vowinkel



CALENDAR

EVENT	DATE	TIME	WHERE
Staff Muster	11 Feb	1:00 PM	Anchors
Chapter Assembly	23 Feb	11:30 AM	Anchors
Massing of Colors	21 Mar	10:00 AM	Balboa Park Club Building
Chapter Assembly	20 Apr	11:30 AM	Anchors
Vietnam Memorial Wall	21 Apr		USS Midway