Celebrating our Supply Corps 225th Birthday
By RADM Mike Lyden, SC, USN, (Ret.), Chairman

Happy 225th Birthday, Navy Supply Corps! As this edition of The Oakleaf goes to press we are in the midst of the Supply Corps Birthday Ball season. In their celebrations, the Foundation's Chapters have done a superb job of recognizing this landmark in Supply Corps history. My sincere thanks go out to all the volunteers—active, reserve, retired and spouses—a cross the Supply community that make these special events a success. In a special celebration of the Supply Corps 225th Birthday, the Newport Chapter will host a series of events in Newport from May 20-22, 2020. As home to the Navy Supply Corps School, Newport offers a unique opportunity to meet some of the Supply Corps newest officers and tour the school. More information is available at https://www.usnscf.com/Newport_RI/Events/Detail/1961 and links to all upcoming Chapter Balls are on page 23.

During this special anniversary year, I invite you to look deeper into the history and lore of the Supply Corps. RADM (ret) Dan McKinnon and others have shared regular stories in The Oakleaf, which

New format for 2019 Chapter and Volunteer of the Year nominations
By CAPT Peter Eltringham, SC, USN (Ret.), Recognition Committee Chair

The Navy Supply Corps Foundation (NSCF) Recognition Program seeks to recognize and share the achievements of our local Chapters and the most successful volunteers who are vital to carrying out our mission. To make this much easier and level the playing field, succinct, bullet formats have been implemented, starting with calendar year 2019 awards. With this quick and simple format, each chapter can easily highlight achievements of volunteers and the chapter as a whole.

The NSCF Chapter of the Year (COY) Award recognizes small and large chapters who have enjoyed exceptionally successful years furthering their respective NSCF Chapter purpose, to

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Thoughts from the Chair
Celebrating the 225th

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have provided wonderful insights and are available in The Oakleaf archives on our website. In addition, two great books have been published. The first, Ready for Sea – The Bicentennial History of the US Navy Supply Corps, written in 1995 by the late RADM (ret) Frank Allston, tells our story through vignettes on various Supply Corps officers since our beginning. More recently, Ready for Sea – A History of the US Navy Supply Corps, a compendium published by the Foundation, details the Supply Corps history through a timeline that starts in 1795 and reaches into the 21st century. Every Supply Corps officer should have a copy of this book. You can order your copy through the Foundation website at https://www.usnscf.com/Foundation/Ships_Store.

This year will be exciting one for the Foundation. In January, we marked a milestone by going virtual with the closing of our office in Watkinsville, Georgia. Our Executive Director, RADM (ret) Ron MacLaren, and his team will continue to provide the same outstanding service in the new construct. Looking across 2020, the Foundation’s committee chairs have built focused objectives to maintain the momentum on current initiatives, as well as further develop programs to expand support to the Supply Corps Community. In particular, the 2020 Scholarship program for dependents of Supply Corps officers, enlisted dependents and spouses is already in high gear—the application period closed at the end of February and applications are currently being reviewed with awards expected to be announced in May. Please help spread the word on this wonderful opportunity.

The Foundation will also be building its 2021-2023 Strategic Plan throughout the year. As always, inputs are welcome and appreciated. You can pass them along at Chair@usnscf.com, maclaren@usnscf.com or (706) 354-4111. We will provide updates as we move forward on this key initiative.

I would like to end with a final note of thanks to everyone who supported the Foundation financially or by volunteering in 2019. You made 2019 a success! Your continued support allows the Foundation to deliver on our important mission—taking care of our own. Thank you!

RADM Mike Lyden, SC, USN (Ret.)
Hello, Supply Corps Family! This is my first column in The Oakleaf, and I am super excited to be your Executive Director of the Foundation! The turnover with Jack Evans is complete and I look forward to continuing and growing Jack’s efforts to make the Foundation the premier non-profit organization in support of our Navy families.

I know you share my goal, as evidenced by your generous donations to our Foundation. A big Thank You to all of you for your continued support! Your 2019 contributions provided great opportunities for our programs—breathing life into many great projects. A list of our 2019 donors is at the end of this newsletter. Every dollar donated makes a difference and brings into focus our vision of “taking care of our own”.

Serving our Foundation daily is a terrific team of volunteers, the Board, myself and a small staff. We are a hard-working team and we welcome you to join us. Currently, I am seeking volunteers with experience in low cost website hosting, website design and app development. If you (or someone you know) have these skills and would like to help, please let me know—you don’t have to be a millennial to support these efforts!

Did you know that you can support the Foundation every day, without it costing you a penny or taking a minute of your time? A small contribution many of us can make involves shopping on Amazon. It’s simple. Log on to smile.amazon.com for your shopping. You’ll be on the same Amazon website you’re familiar with and have the same products available that you’re used to, but you’ll also have an opportunity to designate a charity to receive a donation from Amazon, on your behalf. Please designate the Navy Supply Corps Foundation, Inc. as your charity and Amazon will donate a percentage of your sale to the NSCF without any cost to you—it’s a very small percent, but there’s power in numbers!

The more I learn about the Foundation, the more ideas swirl in my head to further the great work the Foundation is doing. I will continue to share those ideas with you and welcome any that you may have, as well as your help in getting them done. Let’s talk! Please reach out via email at maclaren@usnscf.com.

Member contributions support our Community
By RADM Ron MacLaren, SC, USN, (Ret.), Executive Director

“Your 2019 contributions provided great opportunities for our programs—breathing life into many great projects.”

Support the Foundation through AmazonSmile

It’s so easy! Support the NSCF while shopping on Amazon—it costs you NOTHING!

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to have a portion of the purchase price of your order go to the Foundation.

Go to smile.amazon.com. On your first visit, select a charitable organization before you begin shopping—choose Navy Supply Corps Foundation and Amazon will remember your selection, and every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

More details are available at smile.amazon.com.

Continued on page 20
What's new online?

By CDR Bob Dolan, SC, USN (Ret.), Transition Committee Chair

Since the new web page was launched last year, the Transition Committee has been working hard to provide new content, features and resources for a smooth transition to civilian life.

One of the new areas is the “Current News” section of the Transition page. In this section, current job fairs are shown. Job Fairs are a great place to meet many different potential employers at once. These fairs can help you network with people in various industries and become more aware of what they value in an employee.

A new resource highlighted under Current News is Bridge My Return (BMR). BMR is a Military Hiring Platform that connects Veterans, Transitioning Military, and Guard and Reserve members to career opportunities with civilian companies looking for transitioning military members. One of the BMR tools is a skills translator & resume developer. The skill translation toolbox will help translate your military skills to civilian terminology and assist you in developing a meaningful and useful resume. Additionally, the BMR platform will:

- Show you job matches immediately upon profile completion via the BMR algorithm; the software works 24/7, so new matching job opportunities with companies will surface without any additional effort
- Provide access to free, personalized pre- and post-hire coaching sessions
- Provide you all of these services at no cost.

The Transition Committee is interested in your lessons learned, useful tools or resources that you find effective or any ideas for the committee to pursue that would add value during the transition process. All such feedback should be forwarded to the Transition Committee Chair CDR (ret) Bob Dolan at transition@usn-scfc.com.

Nominations

Continued from page 1

wit: perpetuate the legacy of values, traditions, and history of the Navy Supply Corps throughout the lives of members in the Supply Corps community, to engage its members in professional development, community involvement, charitable endeavors, and social interaction. In so doing, the Chapter strives to promote “esprit de corps” and camaraderie among and between Supply Corps professionals within its defined geographical area. Chapter(s) of the Year will receive either a framed certificate or suitable memento. Resources will be budgeted to offset the cost of a local event to recognize the Chapter award, as well as national recognition via The Oakleaf and the Foundation website.

NSCF Volunteer of the Year (VOY) Award recognizes high impact Volunteer(s) of the Year. Each NSCF Chapter should forward a recommendation for a worthy NSCF volunteer of their active/reserve/civil service/retired/former/family communities. Chapter Presidents are strongly encouraged to recognize a volunteer whose singularly outstanding contribution has been critical to the success of their chapter. Volunteer(s) of the Year will receive either a framed certificate or suitable memento, as well as national recognition via The Oakleaf and the Foundation website.

Nominations are due by 1 April 2020. Email submissions to: recognition@usnsfc.com and copy to: maclaren@usn-sfc.com. *Previously submitted 2019 nominations must be re-submitted in this updated format.

Please contact Recognition Chair, Pete Eltringham at recognition@usnsfc.com with any questions. Let's honor our outstanding Chapters and Volunteers!
The Art of Logistics: Serving as a SEAL Team N4

By LT Joseph A. Stark, SC, USN, SEAL Team FOUR

General Eisenhower said, “You will not find it difficult to prove that battles, campaigns, and even wars have been won or lost primarily because of logistics.” This statement rings particularly true for the resilient and self-motivated Supply Corps Officers who have chosen to test their mettle in an expeditionary role. Specifically, as a SEAL Team N4 Department Head. These officers will have the opportunity to engage their skills not only in supply, but within the broad scheme of logistics, ensuring that our Nation’s most elite fighting force is always prepared and ready to complete its mission. But what does a SEAL Team Supply Officer actually do?

The role as a SEAL Team N4 Department Head and Combat Service Support Troop (CSST) commander spans a wide array of logistical functions: supply, weapons/ordnance, engineering, financial management, transportation, and others. The N4 will assume his/her role, leading 38 Sailors across 14 ratings, an Ensign Supply Officer, and a Lieutenant Civil Engineering Corps Officer. The CSST’s primary function is to provide an unmatched level of logistical support to the SEAL Team through its Inter-Deployment Training Cycle (IDTC), which lasts 18 months and culminates with a 6-month deployment in an austere location.

During the 18-month “work-up”, the N4 will exercise conventional skills as a Supply Officer such as contractual procurement, financial management, inventory control, and purchase card requisitions. Additionally, the N4 will also require the unique ability to perform all tasks associated with engineering, transportation, weapons, and ordnance. While on deployment, the CSST commander will gain invaluable joint experience as the Unit J4 Director, overseeing disaggregated logistical operations throughout his/her AOR, and will carry out all the keystone Supply Corps skillsets in a dynamic and ever-evolving landscape. This unique experience affords the Supply Corps community an unparalleled subset of officers who are well-versed and accomplished within the construct of a joint environment.

Whether it is coordinating the construction of a new foreign operating base (FOB) in a remote location, or performing routine inventories, Naval Special Warfare (NSW) rightly requires a Supply Corps Officer who is comfortable being uncomfortable and who provides an unmatched technical acumen to solve complex problems in order to accomplish 24/7 operations worldwide. NSW demands Officers of unwavering integrity and a strong ethical backbone. In this environment, a successful Supply Corps Officer will recognize where the science of logistics becomes an art. It is a demanding but supremely fulfilling vocation that draws out nothing but the best in those daring to answer the call.

Djibouti Chapter - 225th Supply Corps Birthday Celebration
Chapter Spotlight: Philadelphia - Army vs. Navy Tailgate Party

By LCDR Josh Millner, SC, USN

Neither the gloomy weather conditions nor the Army Black Knights defense were able to stop the wave of Navy enthusiasm at the 2019 Army vs. Navy football matchup in Philadelphia, PA. Before the Midshipmen stormed the field to end Army’s fleeting 3-game winning streak, nearly 40 officers, family members and friends of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Navy Supply Corps Foundation (NSCF) celebrated with pre-game festivities at a tailgate party hosted by the Travis Manion Foundation (TMF). The Philadelphia Chapter regularly joins forces with TMF (www.travismanion.org) in the form of 9/11 Heroes Run and at this year’s NAVSUP WSS Annual USMC Birthday cake-cutting ceremony, so the spirited event offered the perfect setting to gather as a Philadelphia veteran community in support of a local foundation honoring the life of 1st Lt. Travis Manion from Doylestown, PA.

Adding to the esprit de corps, access to the tailgate party for all Philadelphia Chapter members and guests was made possible through monetary support provided by the NSCF Community Values and Traditions (CV&T) program. The CV&T program is designed to “support new, different activities by local chapters to build stronger relationships between all elements of the Supply Corps community, including active, reserve, retired and former officers as well as families and friends,” according to the NSCF website (https://www.usnscf.com/Foundation/pages/Programs/Community_V Values_and_T raditions). The process to request CV&T funds was simple and approval was swift, providing all Philadelphia Chapter members and guests with an incredible 2019 Army vs. Navy experience!

To the NSCF Board, thank you for your support. Go Navy, Beat Army… again!
Chapter Spotlight: Hampton Roads - Holiday Party

By LTJG Bryan Prohaska, SC, USN

On December 19, 2019, RDML Ken Epps, SC, USN hosted a holiday gathering at the Brick Anchor Brew House in Norfolk, VA with over 170 Supply Corps officers, spouses and guests in attendance. As part of the festivities, the NSCF-HR Chapter organized a gift basket raffle, ugly sweater contest, and a competition for the most festive outfit. All proceeds from the raffle were donated to the Navy Supply Corps Foundation’s Scholarship Fund. The baskets were organized by several local commands. The effort raised $2,000 for the scholarship fund.

Top: RDML Ken Epps addresses the attendees of the NSCF-HR Holiday Party at Brick Anchor Brew House in Norfolk, VA. Above left: L to R. Event organizer and NSCF-HR Chapter Vice President LCDR Chris Sands, NSCF-HR Chapter President CAPT Andy Matthews, and RDML Ken Epps. Above right: CAPT Andy Matthews presents a gift basket to one of the lucky winners. Photographs provided by LTJG Bryan Prohaska, NSCF-HR Webmaster
Chapter Spotlight: Jacksonville
By CDR Kirk Engler, SC, USN, Jacksonville Chapter President

The Jacksonville Chapter is focused on being inclusive, engaging and fun! To that end, we created seven leadership committees to better connect with our membership and drive Chapter events. Leads are:
1. Guest Speaker Series – LCDR Alex Tornatore
2. Community Service – LCDR Jay McFarland
3. Professional Development – CDR Adam Prosser
4. Spouses & Retiree Coordination – LCDR Jason Monts
5. Public Affairs – LCDR Ed Tucker
6. Social Events – LCDR Renae Renken
7. Birthday Ball – LCDR Mike Bono

Right & bottom: On 29 Aug, Supply Corps Officers from Kings Bay, Mayport, and Jacksonville toured JAX3 - one of Amazon's local fulfillment centers. After the tour, the GM, Senior Ops Manager, and Operations Area Manager discussed supply chain issues, inventory management, personnel management, and leadership with the group.
Below: Chapter members generously contributed to the “Stuff the Bus” campaign drive—donating 100 lbs of school supplies to Hyde Grove Elementary School of Duval County.
L to R: LCDR Jay McFarland (Community Outreach Committee Lead) and Mrs. Erica Little, HGES Principal.

We hold monthly socials at local establishments in the tri-base area and have enjoyed meeting many of our local retirees – the sea stories never get old! At least quarterly, we schedule professional development events, including guest speakers from the community and field trips to both corporate and DoD activities. Our 225th Supply Corps Birthday Ball was on 29 February at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Jacksonville—pictures online soon!

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The Oakleaf

Jacksonville
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Above: On 19 September, Tri-Base Supply Corps Officers gathered for an early morning breakfast followed by an informative and fun discussion with guest speaker, CDR (ret) John McCarthy. Mr. McCarthy now serves as VP & Director of Supply Chain Management at Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA).

Right: On 18 Dec, at the “Feeding Northeast Florida” food bank, members sorted 15,681 lbs of meat and frozen food (equal to 13,068 meals) and 4,621 lbs of produce (equal to 3,851 meals). Feeding Northeast Florida helps local children and families, seniors and active and retired military members who struggle to put food on the table. Working with local grocery store: L to R: CDR Don Gardner, LCDR Jay McFarland, LCDR Jason Monts, LCDR Renae Rennken, LCDR Alex Tornatore, CDR James Matthews, and CAPT Bill Clarke.

Bottom: Group photo from 2nd Annual “Top Chop” Golf tournament held on 6 Dec at Eagle Landing Golf Course.
## Chapter Presidents

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When new officers are installed, please send the president’s name and email address to webadmin@usnscf.com.
Vintage Oakleaf Spotlight: LTJG William (Bill) Wetmore, SC, USNR (Ret.)
By CDR Mark Ziegler, SC, USN

The Navy Supply Corps Foundation continues to highlight members of the Vintage Oakleaf Club (those 90 years and older). This issue features Supply Corps officer LTJG William (Bill) Wetmore.

LTJG Wetmore enlisted in the Navy on 19 November 1942. He was a participant in the V-12 Navy College Training Program at Willamette University and the Supply Corps Basic Course at Harvard University and was commissioned into the Supply Corps in August 1944.

Assigned as a Paymaster (forerunner to today’s Disbursing Officer), LTJG Wetmore was assigned to ACORN 47 (Aviation, Construction, Ordnance, Repair, Navy) at Palawan, Philippines. While on the troop transport ship headed into the Pacific theater, Bill displayed the savvy and tenacity of a seasoned Supply Corps officer by insisting that his safe (and all of its contents) remain topside with him. By doing so, he was able to provide payday and additional customer service to his unit. This made him a hero of sorts as the other unit on the troop ship had to wait until they arrived in theater to receive any money. His other assignment in theater was as the Supply Officer for the Port Director’s office in Nagoya, Japan. The highlight of this tour was a quick, side trip to China. This trip was not expressly permitted, but, just like Maverick in Top Gun, Bill had the shot and he took it. Unique experiences such as these made his time in the Navy memorable and were instrumental in forging his work ethic, customer-service focus and adventurous spirit.

After completing his active military service, Bill received a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from the University of Portland. He then went into the investment business, working as a stock broker in downtown Portland for over sixty years. He attributed his success to the skills learned while in the Navy.

He met his future wife Gloria Weber on a blind date and they married in June 1949. They had four children, three boys and one girl. In 1959, Bill and Gloria moved from Portland to Lake Oswego, where they lived in the same house for 49 years. They enjoyed entertaining, traveling and being with family, including nine grandchildren and many great grandchildren. After over 69 years of marriage, Gloria passed away in January 2019.

Bill has enjoyed table tennis and tennis, swimming, boating, and participating in and watching team sports throughout his life. He considers himself a very blessed man. Of importance to him was that during World War II, all of those close to him who served made it home alive. A true blessing indeed. Thank you for your service LTJG Wetmore!

Above center: Bill Wetmore, 2016;
Above right: Bill Wetmore Commissioning photo;
Left: LTJG Wetmore is in front row, 3rd from right.
Memories and shared sea stories: Underway on Nuclear Power
Admiral Rickover and the Supply Corps—Partners in Professionalism

By RADM Dan McKinnon, SC, USN, (Ret.)

“The Admiral.” Our Navy knows this famous quotation from the CO of the USS Nautilus (SSN 571), our first nuclear-powered ship, a submarine, as it got underway on 17 January 1955. Our Navy knows that its history, and that of the atomic powered ships that followed, is the legacy of an assertive naval officer named Hyman G. Rickover. Lieutenant Commander Rickover joined the electrical section of the Navy’s Bureau of Ships (BuShips) in 1939, and later, as part of a team of scientists and engineers studying of nuclear energy with the Manhattan Project atomic bomb facility in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, became convinced (and later proved) that nuclear energy could power a ship—submarines, surface ships and aircraft carriers. Today, nuclear power is found in submarines and aircraft carriers. The nuclear-powered aircraft carrier (CVN) has become the backbone of the U.S. Navy striking force; a forward deployed combat presence that today, nuclear power is found in submarines and aircraft carriers. The nuclear-powered aircraft carrier (CVN) has become the backbone of the U.S. Navy striking force; a forward deployed combat presence that today, nuclear power is found in submarines and aircraft carriers.

That June, an Army jeep pulled up in front of my small house in the Italian coastal town of Tirrenia. I was to go to the nearby U.S. Army base, Camp Darby, home of the 8th Logistical Command, for a phone call from Naples. Few stationed in Italy 60 years ago had phones, and my contact with the outside world was with Army communications and helpful military police (MP) with jeeps. Naples was calling. My duty assignment was at a United Nations office at the Pisa airport and my responsibility was to provide United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) troops, stationed between Israel and Egypt in the Gaza Strip, with U.S. Army equipment and supplies.

On the other end of the phone was a new Supply Corps Captain, Wallace R. Dowd, Jr. He said that the Navy’s first atomic-powered aircraft carrier was to arrive in Genoa and the Navy would be sending me its LOGREQ (logistics request). I was to serve as boarding officer and take care of the USS ENTERPRISE. Before being ordered to Pisa, I had spent a year in Naples as head of the purchasing division. It was expected that I would know how to support a ship in an Italian port. Wally Dowd (later our 32nd Chief) said that the ENTERPRISE Supply Officer was Commander Vince Lascara, somewhat of a celebrity in the Supply Corps. I was to say, “Welcome to Wally Dowd’s Italy.”

With a pad of purchase orders, accounting data, my signature as a purchasing officer and identified agent of the Treasury Department, and an agreeable Army Finance Office to pay the bills, I was off in my small Italian Fiat 1100 to be husbanding agent of a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier. With a Genoa ships chandler, “Willie” Friedlieb, we went to work. Mr. Friedlieb was my face to the harbor of Genoa. He served commercial ocean liners and taught me port operations. We met ENTERPRISE as it pulled alongside the pier. Joining it were a diesel submarine and destroyer. On the quarterdeck, after identifying myself as a Supply Corps Lieutenant reporting as the ship’s boarding officer, the officer-of-the-deck (OOD) began to rant. I was in civilian clothes. Disrespect. It had never occurred to me to wear a uniform. With officers of several nations in our UNEF Pisa office, few wore uniforms. Big embarrassment. Big escape from further chewing out came as the affable Supply Officer, Commander Vince Lascara, approached with a smile and a handshake. I learned later that before wearing a uniform on a ship, as a “Rickover Nuc”, he also wore civilian clothes in the office.

All went well. We bought supplies, fresh fruit and vegetables and baked goods, and handled water and garbage barges and tug services. We arranged tours and provided for ship’s laundry. With a MIPR (military inter-departmental purchase request), accounting data, my signature, and an accommodating army transportation unit at Camp Darby, trucks were arranged to ship aircraft component repairables home via the MAC terminal.

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at Pisa.

Mr. Friedlieb was a highly respected Austrian Jew, who had escaped the holocaust hiding in the port of Genoa and going on to be husbanding agent to the first American nuclear carrier deployment. What a contrast in integrity when compared to nuclear carrier deployments to Asia four decades later and a husbanding agent experience of collusion and corruption that resulted in the destruction of so many careers.

Today I tell junior officers I did my best work as a Lieutenant.

It was not all work. My wife and I were invited for lunch and a tour of the diesel submarine. She was the perfect guest, asking questions as a Lieutenant took us around the boat. In the wardroom she asked about the use of a peg board hanging on the bulkhead. Our young tour guide replied, Oh, that is where officers hang their wedding bands before going ashore. The look on her face disqualified me from ever having duty in the submarine service.

Commander Lascara received the Navy Commendation Medal as the first Supply Corps officer of a nuclear carrier. Presented by Vice Admiral Rickover. Vince Lascara spent 7 ½ years with Naval Reactors (NR) and 3 ½ years on Enterprise. He became a Vice Admiral, Chairman of the Board of the Navy Federal Credit Union, and Vice President of Jonathan Corporation, a commercial shipyard.

Commander Lascara receiving the Navy Commendation Medal as the first Supply Corps officer of a nuclear carrier, presented by Vice Admiral Rickover. Vince Lascara spent 7 ½ years with Naval Reactors (NR) and 3 ½ years on Enterprise. He became a Vice Admiral, Chairman of the Board of the Navy Federal Credit Union, and Vice President of Jonathan Corporation, a commercial shipyard.

“management”, “organization” is also not the right word. No organization chart, no office codes, no discernable hierarchy. His team members were called by their last names. The various sections were called by the name of their leader. He was, “The Admiral”.

It was all about performance, not elegance. You saw that when BuShips and the other bureaus moved from the rat-infested Main Navy building on Constitution Avenue in 1968 to leased new office buildings in Crystal City. He brought the office furniture with him; wartime grey medal desks, chairs and filing cabinets. The other Bureaus and offices moved into posh digs with carpeting, drapes, and new wooden furniture. His workspace was frugal. It also made a statement about what was important and what was not. It was also a redistribution of assets that avoided a supply problem. He had also made another statement at BuShips. Finding bureaucracy stifling, he eliminated an unneeded report by making the front office tickler disappear.

The Rickover organization was flat, and controlling and in a way efficient, but not overpowering. He believed in assigning responsibility, trusted you to do it well, backed you taking external responsibility for something gone amiss, and saved often sharp criticism for privacy. That treatment of his people begat immense loyalty. But he knew how to follow performance. Every piece of correspondence had to have a pink copy made and the “pinks” sent immediately by secretaries for him to read. Whenever he had a comment, often just “NUTS”, he would scrawl a “J” on the note. That signaled his longtime secretary, Jean Scroggins, to log it into her tracking system. J-notes must be acted on in writing and “pinks cleared”.

His many field officers were required to write “Dear Admiral” letters and make weekly phone calls. Meetings were for the purpose of identifying Continued on page 14
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...and solving problems, not exchanging information. Problem reporting was a virtue. “Share good news with your spouse.” Identify the issue, determine a course of action, put it in writing immediately, and move.

The NR staff was concentrated in just over 300 professionals. There were scientists and engineers built around clusters of technical sections. Supply Corps officers were assigned the business functions of financial management, supply and logistics of reactor components and nuclear fuel, management of the two atomic laboratories, contracting and source selection, and most interestingly, congressional relations. It was clear that “The Admiral” oversaw what went into the contracts, but it was the NAVSEA contracts department that issued and signed them. NAVSEA Supervisor of Shipbuilding offices at construction shipyards administrated the contracts.

The work of NR was done in only a few locations. Most staff work was performed from the NR office in Crystal City and the scientific work at two contract laboratories: Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory (Bettis) and Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory (KAPL). Civilian clothes were worn in the office and in the field. Tim Foster recounts that Rickover would like to say that only in the Pentagon was intelligence measured by the gold on a uniform. Brady Cole recalls writing an NR request letter to the AEC, and then using his AEC hat to approve it. Responsibility was assigned “cradle to grave”. Supply support came from an office located at the former Ships Parts Control Center (SPCC) in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. Each location had a Supply Corps officer assigned to watch over the conduct of business.

If you look for books on Rickover, they abound. So many stories, especially how Rickover became Rickover, thanks to an adoring and highly respectful Congress. Even though his brilliance and work at BuShips gave the Navy atomic power, he was not the most popular personality with its leaders. When passed over for flag and headed for retirement, at the initiative of his staff and a new member of the Senate from the state of Washington, Henry (Scoop) Jackson, a selection board was compelled to promote him. Scoop Jackson, a selection board was compelled to promote him. Scoop Jackson was the office located at the former Ships Parts Control Center (SPCC) in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. Each location had a Supply Corps officer assigned to watch over the conduct of business. Scoop Jackson was a selection board was compelled to promote him. Scoop Jackson was

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...son would become a longtime friend and advocate. His success with Capitol Hill is also legendary. With the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) charged by law as being responsible for nuclear energy, he arranged to be appointed its Director of the Naval Reactors Branch. No one in the Navy could object when it was the AEC, not the Navy, that paid for shipboard nuclear propulsion development. His team had responsibility for designing, building, integrating, and testing the many mechanical, electrical and steam systems needed to make a nuclear power plant safe and work. He insisted on a wooden mockup of a ships engineering spaces and a land-based prototype of a power plant. Learn by doing. Safety paramount. Don Ledwig pointed out that the Russian atomic plant disaster at Chernobyl was probably caused, not by the inherent danger of atomic radiation or the professionals operating the plant, but by far distant bureaucrats that demanded an impractical inspection protocol.

As a flag officer, some later would have liked to see him to retire and move on. Did not happen. He kept being promoted and served as an admiral for almost 30 years becoming, with 63 years of service, the longest serving Navy officer on active duty in history. Retirement finally occurred in 1982. There is the story of Senators Russell and Vinson driving to the White House to speak with President Johnson. Not knowing the reason for the oval office call, they told him the Navy was retiring Rickover. It should not happen. The President called the Secretary of the Navy. It did not happen.

CVN 70 is named the USS Carl Vinson. SSN 687 is named the Richard B. Russell. No doubt divine intervention.

Years later, when told by a member of his staff that he had connived with Arlington Cemetery officials to have the admiral’s burial site reserved near those of supreme court justices and other prominent Americans like President Kennedy, Rickover replied, “Why bother, I will only be there three days.” Who says he did not have a sense of humor?

The Interview. No one joined the Rickover team unless they were personally selected. His interviews be...
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came famous. There were thousands. From officers and enlisted leaders going aboard ship in positions of responsibility over nuclear power, to his NR team on shore. There was the off-balance chair with the front legs shortened to determine agility of body and thought. There were the pointed and awkward questions about college grades, motivation, lack of success, who you were and what you did. You might get thrown out. You might be called back to join his team. You might be told to stand in a closet until summoned. Some were given text books to study, and others told they could try again after a study program. He preferred newly commissioned officers who had not developed “poor work habits”. Before the Office of Supply Corps Personnel (OP) would let an officer go for an interview, you had to agree to sell yourself and sign up for the Admiral’s five-year commitment. Senior staff would interview first and provide a recommendation. It is doubtful if anyone who ever had a Rickover interview could forget it. Sea stories abound. Once on his team, you were really on his team. A ferocious taskmaster, he was also famous for supporting his staff and taking responsibility. He expected “determination, innovation, and accountability”. An engineer’s engineer, it was all about the pursuit of “technical excellence” …with safety paramount. Those going afloat, officer and enlisted, received months long training. Setting the example, he was a leader’s leader.

In the 1998 book, “The Art of Command”, Rickover is one of nine military leaders, from George Washington to Colin Powell, chosen to be evaluated about what made them a success. It was former Supply Corps officer, Thomas L. (Tim) Foster, Rickover’s long-time business leader, and the man that lead the transition of authority of the Admiral’s successors, that wrote the definitive chapter on, “the most significant technical leader in U.S. military history”.

The Supply Corps (SC) and NR.

In a 1957 letter to the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), then RADM Rickover wrote, “The efforts of many people besides scientists and engineers is necessary to achieve reliable nuclear power plants. We need those who comprehend the logistics aspects of nuclear power. These phases of the Navy’s nuclear power program are being handled by a group of able and devoted Supply (Corps) officers who work with the Naval Reactors Branch. These outstanding officers are charting a path in an area which is largely unexplored. By their vision, their judgment, their ability to face facts clearly, and act promptly, they are setting patterns to guide the Navy for the future.”

In 1944, Commander Rickover was sent to help inspect an inefficient Naval Supply Depot in a Pennsylvania town called Mechanicsburg. Correlation?
The first class of Navy junior Supply Corps officers arrived in 1953: Bill Richardson, Vince Lascara, Ralph Hashagen, George Case, along with Wave Officers Ethel Weyant and Margorie Polatty. There have been hundreds since. Twelve went on to become Flag officers. The first Ensign, Dave Guthrie, dispelled any concern about hiring inexperienced officers directly from the U.S. Navy Supply Corps School (NSCS). He arrived in 1966 and was released 3 years later as the sole survivor to care for a dying mother.

Sometimes attrition was high. Bill Ryan joined with a group of seven and became one of the two last men standing. John Reed recalls when he decided to leave the program, he received a heavy tongue lashing in the exit interview, told he was the worst officer ever, and then learned later that Rickover respected him. One famous interview was with an officer who, when Rickover asked him if he could sing, said “only in the shower”. Rickover brought in three ladies and asked for a performance. They sang. He solo-ed. It was a success. Rickover dismissed the officer, then surprisingly said to Tim Foster, who witnessed the performance, “NR should pass on the guy. He’s too smart for us. He will not stay longer than the five years.” But Rickover hired him anyway. He would not reject talent. Five years later, the officer left and became a prominent attorney. Rickover graduates were trained for success. An officer who tried to break his five-year contract was assigned to an empty office. The Navy moved him, but he had to remain on active duty for five years. A deal is a deal.”

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After his interview, Brady Cole recalls having to take a three-month study program in calculus, physics and analytical geometry and an oral exam. He passed. He remembers having to write and rewrite congressional testimony with Bob Moore, later our 38th Chief. After a congressional hearing, they would ensure that the testimony in the record was what the Admiral had meant to say. Rickover promoted Brady to Lieutenant using the BUPERS Manual. A bible could not be found.

Photos were not unusual in the NR office. Nor were awards like military medals, civilian superior achievement awards, etc. But there was one special recognition given periodically on a Ground Hog Day. It was called the “Word Engineer Award”. Tim Foster was the “Word Engineer of 1971”.

Joe Bartel recalls how in his interview, Rickover asked him, as a Catholic, who would he take direction from, Rickover or the Pope? Three years later when hashing out an issue, Rickover said, “If Jesus Christ had disciples like you, there would never have been a Catholic Church.” Mary Anne Annan recalls how her husband, Bud, was assigned to be his “NR spy” at Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company to watch over nuclear carrier construction. Not always a welcome site to the company, the firm gave him a fuchsia colored hardhat so yard workers could see him coming. When Rickover came down for a personal report, they would meet in the Sears parking lot. Don Ledwig recalls the excitement of being sent into the field on assignment, digging out truth, and writing a report that made things happen.

After five years in NR, he and Brady Cole were shanghaied and sent back to Newport News Shipbuilding to take over nuclear carrier contract administration during the 1970’s era of shipbuilding contract claims. Don retired as a Captain, became President of The Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and used the Rickover playbook to coax money from Congress.

Close, but no cigar. I never met Admiral Rickover.

In 1973, Rickover was admitted to the Bethesda Naval Hospital for a respiratory illness. The hospital, in preparation for the reputedly demanding and assertive admiral, assigned a demanding and assertive Navy nurse Commander to watch over him. That summer he and Eleonore were married and began watching over each other. His first wife, Ruth, who passed away in 1972, was a prominent academic and writer who no doubt influenced his later strong advocation for improvement in education.

Rickover had a unique, highly respected relationship with Congress. Hearings were well attended; his commentary was never disappointing. He often lamented on the need for improvement in American education. There are schools named for him, and an academic building at the

Classes came in abundance. Also, a dining room table full of contract law books. A few weeks later when the civilian head of the Shipbuilding and Overhaul Contracts Division retired, he put me in charge. Well, maybe.

On a dark and chilly evening, when returning from dinner, a couple walking nearby asked if I knew the Buchanan House. I said, “Yes, we can go there together.” We talked. They were interested in my being in the Navy. The gentleman remarked that they were on their way to a private dinner with a friend, Hyman Rickover, and his wife, Eleonore. I looked closer. My affable walking companions were Senator Henry (Scoop) Jackson and his wife. For some of us of a certain age, Scoop Jackson is the best President we never had.

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Navy was pulling its ticket. I knew said that the Navy was withdrawing the company in Pascagoula, Mississippi, a yard that built nuclear submarines. It was to the Ingalls Shipbuilding company in San Diego as it related to a construction of a destroyer tender (AD). I was at a loss why “The Admiral” was concerned about a non-nuclear destroyer repair ship. Later, I was to learn that his tentacles swung broadly. I assured the young man that I would look into the

“There have been hundreds of Supply Corps officers who graduated from the Rickover college of strong leadership who went on to successful careers, both in the Navy and in civilian life.”

matters and, if finding malfeasance, would personally lead the San Diego investigation. Then I asked, “Who are you?” He was a junior grade Supply Corps Lieutenant. Years later I wondered if he had to clear a “J-note.” Only when writing this article did it occur to me that his visit might have been instigated by Jerry Thompson. Rickover testing?

An exception. There was one aberration to Supply Corps officers going into the Rickover program. One came out.

In 1969, Lieutenant Charles W. Stone Jr., a Naval Academy graduate, had just completed three patrols on board the USS Henry Clay SSBN 625 and was in the Charleston Naval Shipyard for its first overhaul. Chuck Stone had endured and passed the “interview” and was the Reactor Control Officer and Damage Control Assistant (DCA) on Clay. Heavy responsibilities. He decided he would like to get into the business of Navy business and join the Supply Corps. He consulted a new SC Rear Admiral, Wally Dowd, Commanding Officer of the Naval Supply Center, Charleston. He also consulted the Bureau of Naval Personnel who said, “No”. He had to remain a Nuc. Wally told OP to “do it”. In OP we moved swiftly. After SC school, as his detailer, I sent then senior Lieutenant Stone to a LCDR SUPO billet on USS Halsey DLG 23. After a year, Bob Abele, my partner in career development, sent him to Long Beach Naval Shipyard for an educational dose of the complexities of the supply system. Chuck excelled. As a nuclear engineer, his credibility was nonpareil, and he was as much an engineer on the waterfront as he was a parts pusher. As a Commander, he was SUPO of a submarine tender. As a Captain, he was Commanding Officer of the Naval Supply Center, San Diego. He and his wife, June, built a retirement home on a mountain north of San Diego. They designed the house, served as their own contractor, and Chuck created a solar powered hot water system. Hidden behind the walls were piping and valves that looked like the interior of a nuclear submarine. Naturally.

Much to be proud of. There have been hundreds of Supply Corps officers who graduated from the Rickover college of strong leadership, who went on to successful careers.
both in the Navy and in civilian life. There is no doubt in my former military mind that their lives have been one of contribution and success.

The legacy began with the first six. It lives on today. No longer recruiting Ensigns leaving school, officers now come on board after earning a warfare qualification. Selection remains rigorous, but part of the Naval Reactors Propulsion Program (NNPP) Internship Program. Officers can receive tuition assistance and complete their masters work while with NNPP. Two years an intern, three years payback, five years hard work. I know it still is, as Bill Ryan once wrote, “stayed alive for five”, and “the rewards were exceptional”.

The legacy also lives on thanks to Brady and Carol Cole. They started a tradition of gathering this close-knit family of SC Rickover friends every couple of years. The first reunion was at the Cole’s home near Austin, Texas. So far, one or more of the group has stepped up periodically to take on the logistics of hosting a reunion. Reunions have been held in Washington D.C., San Diego, California, Carmel, California, and recently in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Some wives who have lost their husbands also attend. Maryanne Annan, wife of Bud Annan, Marilyn Erickson, wife of Barry Erickson, and Mary Jo Powell, wife of Bill Powell, have continued to join this group of friends that come together because of a special bond from a special time and a special experience.

The Admirals. There have been twelve admirals in the Supply Corps following service with Admiral Rickover:

- VADM Vincent A. Lascara
- RADM Edwin E. Renfro
- RADM Paul L. Foster
- RADM Kenneth L. Woodfin
- RADM John C. Sheppard
- RADM William J. Ryan
- RADM Gerald J. Thompson
- RADM Millard J. Johnson
- RADM Brady M. Cole
- RADM Stuart F. Platt
- RADM Robert M. Moore, 38th Chief of Supply Corps
- RADM Eugene B. Harshbarger

Twelve nuclear aircraft carriers serve every day in the cause of freedom. Twelve Supply Corps admirals served that cause. Twelve had stars descend upon their sleeves.

For those who might gaze at the stars and follow Astrology, the number twelve is the spiritual sign of Pisces, whose symbol in the Zodiac is the fish. The number twelve also signifies completion. Pisces is always in touch with the energies of the universe.

Fun Bunch - a spouse support network

By Gracie Dziewiatkowski, Spouse Representative

As the summer season approaches, many Supply families prepare to PCS. Some families will move to new regions, others will move back to familiar towns, still some will establish a retirement home. With each move, it’s easy to stay connected to our Supply Community through the Foundation’s 37 Chapters around the globe.

Our Chapters offer families an opportunity to find camaraderie and support through social and professional activities. But sometimes, spouses may crave a more intimate friendship with other spouses. For this reason, the NSCF established a spouse support network—the Fun Bunch. Designed to provide Supply spouses with a local network of support and resources, the Fun Bunch reaches across the active, retired and reserve communities to bring the Supply Family together.

Fun Bunches are established in a handful of regions. To find a Fun Bunch near you, or to begin a Fun Bunch in your area, please email Foundation Spouse Rep Gracie Dziewiatkowski at spouserep@usnscf.com. We are all on this journey together—help us to stay connected and inspired!
The Oakleaf is aware of the following members of the Supply Corps community who passed away recently. A complete list of names is on www.usnscf.com along with available obituaries. The efforts to clean up the member database has uncovered many of the names in this issue’s In Memoriam. Please let us know of those who have passed away for this column and on the website by forwarding information to TheOakleaf@usnscf.com.

**2020**
CAPT Thomas Hugh Upton, SC, USN (Ret.) Feb. 20  
CAPT Kevin William McCook, SC, USN (Ret.) Feb. 11  
CAPT David E. Hilton, SC, USN (Ret.) Feb. 4  
LCDR Richard G. Henninger, Sr., SC, USN (Ret.) Jan. 12  
CDR Kenneth Carl Fletcher, SC, USN (Ret.) Jan. 4  

**2019**
CAPT Robert Charles Watt, SC, USN (Ret.) Dec. 20  
CDR Wayne Blair McFarland, SC, USN (Ret.) Dec. 20  
LCDR James Michael “Jim” Hoffman, SC, USN (Ret.) Dec. 4  
CAPT Joel Leon Biliouris, SC, USN (Ret.) Nov. 27  
CAPT Allen Griffith Taylor, SC, USN (Ret.) Nov. 24  
CDR Vincent John Giagni, SC, USN (Ret.) Nov. 21  
RADM Rodney Kaye Squibb, SC, USN (Ret.) Nov. 8  
CDR Brooks Palmer Merritt, SC, USN (Ret.) Oct. 31  
CDR Raymond O. Dorbolo, SC, USN (Ret.) Oct. 8  
LCDR Lois Ann Welsh, SC, USN (Ret.) Aug. 8  

**2018**
CDR James W. Dyches, SC, USN (Ret.) Dec. 13  

**2017**
LCDR David William Cromer, SC, USN (Ret.) Dec. 17  

**2016**
LCDR Ronald Eugene Otto, SC, USN (Ret.) July 11  

**2015**
CDR Richard Conroe Scott, SC, USN (Ret.) Nov 24  

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**Supply Corps 225th Anniversary**  
**St. Louis Chapter**

The St. Louis Area Chapter celebrated the Supply Corps 225th Anniversary on 21 February at a local restaurant.  
Right: Cutting the cake are the oldest member in attendance Captain Brian Baldus and the youngest member in attendance LCDR Casey Hebert.
Thanks to the many donors of 2019

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You can make your contribution go further by taking advantage of your employer’s matching funds program. Also, many companies now offer to make a contribution to a customer’s favorite charity, such as Amazon's Smile Program.

We need your continued support so that we may continue to fulfill our mission of “Taking Care of Our Own.” Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have at maclaren@usnsclf.com or 706-354-4111.

Again, many thanks to those who have supported us over the past year. Below is a list of the contributions we received in 2019:

$10,000.00 plus

CAPT Joseph W. Kinsey
CAPT John L. Kizer
Mrs. Patricia Kunkel
CAPT Howard W. Lacey
CAPT Richard H. Lee
RADM Mike Lyden
CAPT Marshall L. Mabie
CAPT Brian L. McDonnell
CAPT Stephen H. Morris
RADM William R. Morris
CAPT Stephen Morrow
Mr. David A. Nimick
CDR Robert S. Olson
CDR Larry A. Pals
CDR Jack J. Parrino
CDR Fred M. Penn
CAPT William H. Port
Mrs. Loretta M. Powell
CAPT Larry S. Price
CDR Ruddie Putman
Mrs. Margaret Redman
CDR John D. Rickards
Mr. Sanford R. Robertson
CDR Jeff Roby
CDR Ronald Roskowski
CAPT Leonard J. Sapera
CAPT Albert J. Schiffl
CAPT Jackson Schultz
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Jenkins
CAPT James Shelton
LTJG Harley J. Smith
RADM Paul O. Soderberg
Mrs. Alice J. Sparrow
Mrs. Kathleen D. Sturdivant
CDR David B. Wadsworth
RADM E. K. Walker
CDR Mark L. Whitfield

$5,000-$9,999

RADM Linda & CAPT Robert Bird
CAPT David Bunten
CAPT Bernard Dunn, Jr.
CAPT Thomas B. Hagen
CDR William O. Hagerty
VADM Keith Lippert
RADM Steven W. Maas
Mr. William C. Powell
LCDR Robert E. Riley
VADM Alan S. Thompson
Mrs. Marion A. Wright

$1,000-$4,999

LCDR Richard E. Asche
CAPT Thomas Billings
CDR & Mrs. Roscoe Burns
CDR John D. Cicco
Mr. Laurence S. Costin
CAPT James W. Duncan
Ms. Mary Catherine Dunn
CAPT Bernard D. Dunn, Sr.
RDM1 Kenneth W. Epps
CDR Jack L. Evans
LCDR Alan S. Hall
Mrs. Marsha E. Holmes
Mr. & Mrs. J. Alexander Dunn
CDR Joseph J. Jordan
CAPT Michael R. Kalas
RADM David P. Keller
LT Kevin M. Kemen

CAPT Allison M. W. Cameron
CAPT Jay Cheney
CAPT Ted Diggles
CAPT Wayne W. Gerstenberger
CDR Margaret Hammond
CAPT Elliott M. Harold
RADM Sinclair Harris
RADM E. B. Harshbarger
RADM D. E. Hickman
CAPT Edward J. Horres
CDR Robert R. Kurz
RADM Althea C. Leslie
CAPT Henry G. Levinson
CAPT Kurt Libby
CAPT James H. Main
LCDR Joseph Malloy
CDR Robert McCormack
CDR Kristin Piotrowski
LCDR Jeff Poulton
CAPT Danny Ramsey
CAPT David G. Shanahan
CAPT Greg F. Stroh
CAPT Kevin P. Thurston
CDR Christine R. Valentine

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Supply Corps 225th Birthday - Chapter Celebrations

7 March - Mechanicsburg Chapter - Hershey Lodge
14 March - Washington DC Chapter - National Press Club
20 March - San Diego Chapter - The Abbey on Fifth Avenue
27 March - Hampton Roads Chapter - Norfolk Waterside Marriott
17 April - Italy Chapter - Ammot Cafe
20-22 May - Newport Chapter
20 May - Lobster Bake - Kempnaar’s Clambake Club, 1800
21 May - 225th Birthday Ball - Naval Station Newport Officer’s Club, 1800
22 May - Navy Supply Corps School Tours - NSCS, 1000
22 May - Golf Tournament - Green Valley Country Club, 1300

*Visit our Chapter Facebook pages for more details and to reserve your tickets!

4th of July Salute to America

CDR Doug Quinn stands in front of an M1A1 Abrams tank that was positioned beside the Lincoln Memorial during the 4th of July Salute to America event. The lone Supply Officer assigned to JFHQ-NCR / MDW, CDR Quinn’s office was responsible for successfully coordinating the movement and placement of the tank for the high visibility event.
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