

# ANCHOR WATCH

May - June 2014



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NAVY INFORMATION OPERATIONS COMMAND MARYLAND QUARTERDECK

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**CONTENTS:**

- 3 **Advancements**
- 4 **28th Annual Massing of the Colors**
- 5 **Total Force Language Readiness**
- 6 **TAPS**
- 8 **Battle of Midway**
- 9 **Monthly CPR/AED Training**
- 10 **Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month**
- 12 **Command Master Chief represents Navy in wreath laying ceremony**
- 14 **CPO365 Sports Day photos**
- 16 **Sailor In the Spotlight**



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**ANCHOR WATCH**  
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May - June 2014  
www.niocomd.navy.mil

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# CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE FOLLOWING SAILORS ON THEIR ADVANCEMENT



PATRICK BENE WOLFREY  
TURKESSA RENEE HUDSON



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MERCY ANN YAMOMO

# U.S. Navy Elements Participate in Fort Meade's 28th Annual Massing of the Colors

Story Number: NNS140520-07Release Date: 5/20/2014 9:52:00 AM

By Petty Officer 2nd Class David R. Finley Jr.

FORT MEADE, Md. (NNS) -- Color guards comprised of Sailors assigned to U.S. Fleet Cyber Command/U.S. 10th Fleet (FCC/C10F) and Navy Information Operations Command Maryland participated in Fort Meade's Memorial Day Remembrance and 28th Annual Massing of the Colors at the Fort Meade Pavilion May 18.

Adm. Michael S. Rogers, commander, U.S. Cyber Command and Director of the National Security Agency/Chief, Central Security Service, served as grand marshal and keynote speaker of the ceremony, which is held to honor the service and sacrifices of past and present service members.

"The day honors those who have made the ultimate sacrifice," said Rogers. "It is important we...stop and think about those men and women who gave their life in the service of their nation. There is no greater sacrifice or symbol of selflessness."

The event featured more than 50 color guards, representing the military service branches, veterans organizations, community organizations, youth groups, police officers and firefighters, presenting their respective colors.

"I love days like today," said Rogers. "Because they always remind me that life in uniform is about service and sacrifice, which are the very ideas that unify all of us here."

Rogers also thanked and acknowledged the Gold Star Families in attendance for their support of the military and their sacrifice.

Gold Star Families are direct next-of-kin family members of service members who lost their lives in WWI, WWII, and subsequent armed hostilities in which the armed forces of the U.S. have been engaged through today.

Highlights of the ceremony included a performance by the U.S. Army Drill Team, a reading of the preamble to the constitution of the Military Order of the World Wars, and a concert by the Concert Band and Soldiers' Chorus of the U.S. Army Field Band.

"It is truly an honor to be a part of this tradition," said Information Systems Technician 3rd Class Matthew Jackson, FCC/C10F color guard member. "I enjoyed seeing all the branches, both past and present, come together to celebrate this Memorial Day Remembrance and Massing of the Colors."

For more news from Commander, U.S. Fleet Cyber Command/U.S. 10th Fleet, visit [www.navy.mil/local/FCCC10F/](http://www.navy.mil/local/FCCC10F/).



Navy Information Operations Command Maryland's color guard participated in Fort Meade's Memorial Day Remembrance and 28th Annual Massing of the Colors. The event featured more than 50 color guards, representing the military service branches, veterans organizations, community organizations, youth groups, police officers and firefighters, presenting their respective colors. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class David R. Finley Jr./Released)



## On 11 July 2014 Commander Owen Schoolsky assumed his new duties as Executive Officer, Navy Information Operations Command Maryland



CDR Owen Schoolsky is a native of Atlanta, Georgia and graduated from the University of Georgia in September 1989. He enlisted in the Navy as a CTR in February 1991 and was commissioned an Ensign in October 1996 and designated as a Cryptologic Officer.

Upon commissioning in October 1996, he received orders to the National Security Agency (NSA), serving as the Team Chief for the Balkans 24 hour watch in the National Security Operation Center (NSOC). Follow-on tour was to the USS BONHOMME RICHARD (LHD-6) as the Ship Signals Exploitation Space (SSES) Officer reporting onboard in April 2000. As the SSES Officer and CRC he led, trained, and managed 46 Sailors and Marines into a Joint cryptologic team, supporting initial strike operations in Afghanistan and the Arabian Gulf. Additionally, while onboard BONHOMME RICHARD, he was successful in qualifying as a surface warfare officer, standing watches as an OOD (u/w) and CICWO.

In July 2002 CDR Schoolsky reported to the Naval Post Graduate School where he earned an MS degree in Information Systems Technology and completed Phase I of JPME. After graduating in July 2004 he reported to Naval Special Warfare Group ONE (NSWG-1) as the Tactical Information Operations Department Head supporting combat operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Joint Operations Area (JOA) in the Pacific. His concentrated area of focus was towards Active Electronic Warfare (EW) and Computer Network Operations at the tactical level directly in support of Joint SOF mission sets, and/or by, with and through host and partner nations.

In January 2007, he reported to Expeditionary Strike Group THREE (ESG-3) where he was immediately deployed to Fifth Fleet as CRC for multiple Combined Task Forces supporting counter piracy, amphibious operations, defense of the oil platforms, as well as NAVCENT's counter-terrorism cell. Upon completion of ESG-3's deployment he provided direct executive level support to the senior Admiral on staff as the principle cryptologic and information operations advisor in all aspects of manning, training, and equipping for over 60 surface combatant platforms operating in the Pacific Theater and the Middle East.

From July 2010 to June 2012 CDR Schoolsky was assigned to the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) in Monterey, CA as the Electrical Engineering and Applied Mathematics Program Officer as well as supporting the stand-up of the MS in Cyber Systems Operations curriculum. He was then assigned to Naval Special Warfare Command where he is served as the N39/Force Tactical Information Operations (TIO) Officer supporting Navy and Joint SOF operations world-wide.

CDR Schoolsky's personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (x4), Joint Service Achievement Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (x3).

6 **20**

# th ANNUAL TAPS NATIONAL MILITARY SURVIVOR SEMINAR AND GOOD GRIEF CAMP

**Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors is there... for the families who have paid the ultimate price.**

WASHINGTON- More than 500 servicemembers volunteered to be mentors for hundreds of families left behind by America's fallen military service members who gathered to grieve, find hope and healing, and honor their loved ones over Memorial Day Weekend at the 20th annual Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) National Military Survivor Seminar & Good Grief Camp.

A record-breaking 2,400 participants were part of the five-day weekend event this year, which offers a Good Grief Camp for children, workshops for adults, and opportunities to honor their loved ones who died. Attendees include the families of those killed in action, those who died by suicide, and those who perished in training accidents or from sudden illnesses.

"TAPS is a good opportunity to provide support," said NIOC Maryland Sailor, Petty Officer 1st Class Burns. "We supported the mentees by making a circle on the outside of them. This created a safe environment where mentees felt comfortable to share. Overall this was a very meaningful event."

The mentors engaged their mentee's in various activities that included exercises to allow the mentee to open up about their loss. While the children were expressing their grief they were also able to take part in fun activities like bouncy houses, face painting and rock climbing. The TAPS program also enabled the spouses of fallen servicemembers to be among peers that have been through similar situations.

"The moments when my mentee and I were separate from the group and talking were the most impactful for both the mentee and me," said Ensign Scanzoni. "During these moments, we were free from distractions and able to be vulnerable with each other. In these moments, I was able to ask the difficult questions to my mentee and expect an unfiltered response."

For more information on how to volunteer or contact a member visit: [www.taps.org](http://www.taps.org) or call the toll-free TAPS resource and information helpline at 1.800.959.TAPS (8277).



## Information Dominance Corps Commemorates 72nd Anniversary of the Battle of Midway

By Petty Officer 2nd Class David R. Finley Jr.

ANNAPOLIS, Md. - Members of the Navy's Information Dominance Corps (IDC) and their guests commemorated the 72nd anniversary of the Battle of Midway during a ceremony held at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium in Annapolis, Maryland June 4.

The Battle of Midway was fought June 4-7, 1942 and is regarded as the turning point in the Pacific theater of operations during World War II.

"The battle was truly a decisive victory against the Japanese during World War II," said Rear Adm. Walter E. Carter, Jr., the event's guest speaker. "One of the keys to winning this battle and the Pacific war, was how much Adm. Chester Nimitz believed in his intelligence community."

The efforts of the U.S. Navy's codebreakers, predecessors of today's Information Dominance Corps, were key to Nimitz's decision as U.S. Pacific Fleet commander to engage the Japanese at Midway.

"It was a game changing victory and firmly established the U.S. Navy as the preeminent naval power in the world," said Vice Adm. Ted N. Branch, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Dominance/ Director of Naval Intelligence. "The combination of predictive battle space awareness and the bravery of our forces allowed our Navy to prevail."

Battle space awareness is one of the key tenets of information dominance, along with "assured command and control" and "integrated fires."

"The Battle of Midway was a pivotal moment in our Navy's heritage and our information dominance history," said Vice Adm. Jan E. Tighe, Commander of U.S. Fleet Cyber Command/U.S. 10th Fleet.



Rear Adm. Walter E. Carter, the event's guest speaker, addresses members of the Information Dominance Corps and their guests during the 72nd anniversary of the Battle of Midway commemoration held at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium in Annapolis, Maryland. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class David R. Finley Jr./Released)

The IDC was created in 2010 by consolidating the meteorology/oceanography, information warfare, information professional, intelligence and space cadre officer communities, along with their enlisted, reserve and civilian counterparts, to form an inter-disciplinary Corps that leads the delivery of those information dominance warfighting capabilities to Navy and joint commanders.

## Fleet Cyber Command/10th Fleet Commemorates the Battle of Midway

By Petty Officer 2nd Class David R. Finley Jr.

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. - Sailors and civilians assigned to U.S. Fleet Cyber Command/U.S. 10th Fleet (FCC/C10F) commemorated the 72nd anniversary of the Battle of Midway during a ceremony held at fleet headquarters on Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, June 3.

The Battle of Midway was fought June 4-7, 1942, and is regarded as the turning point in the Pacific theater of operations during World War II. During the battle, U.S. Navy carrier strike forces prevented the Japanese from capturing control of Midway Island in the Pacific.

"The victory at the Battle of Midway was truly only a success because of the hard work, dedication, and for some the ultimate sacrifice of the Sailors and Marines near the tiny mid-Pacific base at the Midway atoll," said the event's Master of Ceremonies, Lt.j.g. Jason Heinen. "The proud contributions of [what today is known as] the Information Dominance Corps to that victory are undisputed."

The commemoration ceremony highlighted the weather prediction, navigation and communication contributions made by service members throughout the battle.

"Our knowledge of the weather in the Battle of Midway comes from reconstructions done by Florence van Straten," said Senior Chief Aerographer's Mate Jim Hatch, the event's guest speaker. "Her reports provided examples of how military forces were able to use weather conditions to their advantage."

Van Straten played an important role in accurate weather support during World War II and her efforts led to significant advances in atmospheric science.

The Battle of Midway demonstrated the importance of a commander's basic insight into what was actually occurring on, below and above the sea.

Today, that is known as "battlespace awareness," one of the key tenets of information dominance, along with "assured command and control" and "integrated fires."



Guest speaker, Senior Chief Aerographer's Mate Jim Hatch, delivers a speech at U.S. Fleet Cyber Command/U.S. Tenth Fleet's commemoration ceremony of the 72nd anniversary of the Battle of Midway. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class David R. Finley Jr./Released)

"The Navy has always been steeped in tradition," said Cryptologic Technician 1st Class (IDW/SW) William VanHousen, the event's coordinator. "It is important for every Sailor to understand their heritage and where they come from."

The ceremony was also viewed via teleconference by Sailors assigned to FCC/C10F South located in Suffolk, Virginia.

## NIOC Maryland Receives Monthly CPR/AED Training

By Petty Officer 2nd Class James Turner

Navy Information Operations Command (NIOC) Sailors and Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) staff further their Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and automated external defibrillator (AED) response capability by attending monthly hands-on training from Ft. Meade/Anne Arundel Firefighter Ryan Gentzler at FFSC on Fort Meade, Maryland.



FORT MEADE, Md.-- Seaman David Powell, attached to Navy Information Operations Command (NIOC) Maryland, participates in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automated external defibrillator (AED) training at Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) Ft Meade, May 19. The CPR/AED class is a combined volunteer effort between the Navy, Fleet and Family Support Center and Fort Meade/Anne Arundel County Fire Department to qualify Sailors and FFSC staff in accordance with American Heart Association. US. Navy Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class James Turner.

The Navy, FFSC and Fort Meade/Anne Arundel County Fire Department work together in a combined volunteer effort to qualify people at least once a month. The course is designed to qualify Sailors and FFSC staff members in accordance with the American Heart Association CPR/AED standards.

"They do an excellent job illustrating life saving techniques during a critical moment for an individual," said FFSC Staff Member Patrice Scott. "It is a great way for those of us who have previously taken the course and need to touch up on our skills. Medical research is constantly changing training practices."

Upon completion of the course, everyone who can properly demonstrate the ability to perform CPR and the use of an AED receives an official card from the American Heart Association and an entry is put in their service record stating they are qualified.

"The CPR/AED class is first and foremost for our watchstanders, said CPR/AED Facilitator/Liaison Petty Officer 1st Class Aaron Arnesto. "It is imperative that we have trained and qualified personnel to ensure the safety and security of our Sailors at NIOC Maryland as well as in the fleet. Secondly, it's important because it



a prerequisite for Sailors trying to earn their Information Dominance Warfare Pin (IDW). Lastly, I believe it is a good skill-set that members in all communities should have.

The training, which usually cost \$80 for civilians off post, is offered free of charge for the Sailors of NIOC and staff members of FFSC in order to get as many people qualified as possible.

"Offering the training for free is a wonderful incentive for increased participation among the NIOC sailors and staff of the FFSC." said Scott. "The training was very similar to a lot of the training we receive. It instructs us to look out for those in our community and assist whenever it is needed."

Any Sailor who needs to become qualified should enroll using the Navy's Standard Integrated Personnel System (NSIPS) program.



# Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

By Petty Officer 2nd Class James Turner

During the month of May, the Defense Department took time to recognize and honor the dedicated service and contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, both past and present, through their military service in defense of our nation.



NIOC Maryland joined our nation in celebrating the contributions of generations of patriots during Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month by offering a free lunch fair educating Sailors on Asian and Pacific Islander food and culture, May 28.

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month recognizes the challenges faced by Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and Native Hawaiians and their vital contributions to the American story.

This year's national theme was "I Am Beyond," capturing the aspirations of the American spirit and how Americans of Asian and Pacific Islander descent have sought to excel beyond the challenges they have faced over the years.

Asians and Pacific Islanders of various nationalities and ancestry have been serving in our Navy since the early 19th century. Asians and Pacific Islanders have continued to be at the forefront as leaders in every aspect of American life, including Adm. Harry B. Harris, Jr., the commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet. Born in Japan and raised in Tennessee and Florida, Adm. Harris graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1978 and became a P-3 Orion navigator. In addition to U.S. Pacific Fleet, he commanded Patrol Squadron 46, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 1, Joint Task Force-Guantanamo, U.S. 6th Fleet and Striking and Support Forces NATO.

Another Sailor of Asian American decent is Capt. and astronaut Sunita L. Williams, of Asian Indian parentage. She served as the flight engineer for the Expedition-14 crew and science officer at the International Space Station in 2007. Her



four space walks and six months in orbit set records for women at the time.

In 2014, Sailors of Asian and Pacific Islander heritage comprise 6.43 percent of our active duty Naval force. More than 20,500 active duty Sailors, 4,000 Reservists, and 18,900 Navy civilian employees identify as Asian American or Pacific Islander, including 10 flag officers, nine members of the Senior Executive Service (SES), and 176 Master Chief Petty Officers. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders encompass over 50 ethnic and language groups, representing a vast array of cultures, nationalities, and historical roots.

Directed by Congress in 1978 and established by Presidential Proclamation in 1979, Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week was first observed the week of May 4, 1979. In 1990, President George H. W. Bush expanded the observance to encompass the entire month, and in 1992, Congress passed a law permanently designating May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month.

The Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute provides printable posters, presentations, guidance for organizing observance, and educational facts on their website, <http://www.deomi.org/> under the section "Special Observances."

For more information about the history of Asian and Pacific Islanders and their numerous contributions to the Navy, visit <http://www.history.navy.mil/special%20highlights/asian/asian-index.htm>.

# An Asian Pacific American Timeline

The following is an extract of significant dates in Asian Pacific American contributions to DoD and the nation that were compiled by Robert L. Worden of the Library of Congress for a calendar produced by the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute:

## JANUARY

**1-1969** Japanese American Army Staff Sgt. Rodney James Tadashi Yano earns posthumous Medal of Honor for heroism in Vietnam.

**4-1913** Yonosuke Enouye dies; was an early Japanese American graduate of U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 1891.

**6-1916** Korean American Army Lt. Col. Herbert Choy born; becomes first Asian American named to federal court (U.S. Ninth Circuit Court, 1971).

**16-1942** Army Sgt. Jose Calugas, a Filipino, earns Medal of Honor for heroism in the Philippines during World War II.

**21-1915** Navy Fireman 2nd Class Telesforo de la Cruz Trinidad, a Filipino, earned Medal of Honor during boiler explosion incident aboard the USS San Diego.

**28-1986** Astronaut Air Force Lt. Col. Ellison Sjoji Onizuka dies in space shuttle Challenger explosion. Onizuka, a Japanese American, served on the first DoD space shuttle mission.

**29-1961** Air Force Academy distinguished graduate (1982) Joginder Singh Dhillon, an Indian American, born. Dhillon is thought to be the first Asian American to attain this honor.

## FEBRUARY

**2-1848** Ship Eagle arrives in San Francisco with two Chinese men, one Chinese woman.

**19-1942** U.S. War Department authorizes first Filipino infantry battalion from among Filipino Americans.

**19-1942** President Roosevelt signs Executive Order 9066 providing for internment of Japanese Americans.

**20-1943** 1,200 Filipinos serving in U.S. armed forces granted citizenship.

**23-1942** Japanese Americans join noncombat engineer's auxiliary in Hawaii.

## MARCH

**20-1969** Japanese American Army Cpl. Terry Teruo Kawamura earns posthumous Medal of Honor for saving friends' lives in Vietnam.

**21-1940** Japan American Citizens League pledges loyalty to United States.

## APRIL

**5-1945** Japanese American Pfc. Sadao S. Munemori earns posthumous Medal of Honor for saving the lives of others in Italy during World War II.

**9-1972** Retired Army Lt. Col. Gero Iwai dies; was earliest and most senior Japanese American to serve in military intelligence during World War II.

**17-1900** U.S. flag raised over Samoa for the first time.

**25-1951** Japanese American Cpl. Hiroshi H. Miyamura earns Medal of Honor in Korean War action.

## MAY

**1-1898** Japanese Americans serve on U.S. warships in Battle of Manila Bay.

**22-1882** U.S.-Korean treaty allows Koreans to immigrate to the United States.

**31-1987** Hoang Nhu Tran, a former boat person, valedictorian of U.S. Air Force Academy in class of 960 students. He was also a Rhodes Scholar and Time magazine's recipient of the 1986 College Achievement Award.

## JUNE

**1-1942** U.S. Military Intelligence Service Language School adds more Japanese American instructors.

**7-1904** Kiro Kunitomo dies; the Japanese American was an early Asian graduate of U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 1877.

**21-1861** Chinese American John Tomney joins New York Infantry, later dies of wounds at Battle of Gettysburg (1863).

**29-1863** Chinese American Hong Neok Woo joins Pennsylvania Volunteer Militia, serves in Civil War.

**29-1946** Congress passes GI Fiancées Act, enabling women or men engaged to U.S. service members to immigrate to United States.

## JULY

**3-1943** First Filipino infantry battalion sent to Pacific Theater.

**4-1946** Philippines gains independence.

**15-1946** The 442nd "Go for Broke" Regimental Combat Team receives the Presidential Distinguished Unit citation from President Truman in Washington. The unit was the most decorated for its size and length of service in U.S. military history. From 1943 to 1945, members received seven presidential unit citations and more than 18,000 individual awards, including one Medal of Honor, 52 Distinguished Service Crosses, 560 Silver Stars, 4,000 Bronze Stars and 9,486 Purple Hearts.

**19-1993** Japanese American World War II hero Sgt. Roy H. Matsumoto inducted into U.S. Army Ranger Hall of Fame. Matsumoto was honored for extraordinary courage and service with the 5307th Composite Unit, "Merrill's Marauders."

**23-1863** Chinese American William Ah Hang becomes one of the first Asian Americans to enlist in U.S. Navy during Civil War.

**28-1959** World War II hero Army Capt. Daniel K. Inouye, holder of the Distinguished Service Cross, becomes first Japanese American elected to the U.S. House of Representatives (1959-63); later becomes U.S. senator.

## AUGUST

**11-1943** All-Japanese American 442nd Regimental Combat Team departs for Europe.

**14-1952** Filipino American Sgt. LeRoy A. Mendonca posthumously presented Medal of Honor for gallantry in repulsing the enemy on July 4, 1951, in Chichon, Korea.

**21-1959** Hawaii becomes 50th state.

## SEPTEMBER

**4-1943** All-Japanese American 442nd Regimental Combat Team, lands at Salerno, Italy.

**12-1934** Maj. Gen. John Liu Fugh born; first Chinese American to obtain general officer rank in U.S. Army.

**14-1950** Vietnamese American space shuttle astronaut Eugene Huu-Chau Trinh born.

**16-1927** Chinese American Abe Lee born; becomes Golden Glove and National AAU champion boxer and, later, U.S. Navy veteran.

**18-1997** Design concept unveiled for National Japanese American Memorial in Washington. Initially intended to commemorate Japanese American war veterans, the purpose has been extended to honor the patriotism of all Japanese Americans during World War II.

**24-1911** Filipino Army Pvt. Jose B. Nisperos earns Medal of Honor for heroism in Philippines.

**27-1922** Benjamin Menor born; becomes first Filipino to serve in U.S. legislature (Hawaiian State Senate, 1962-66).

## OCTOBER

**5-1959** Vietnam Veterans Memorial designer Chinese American Maya Ying Lin born.

**10-1928** Samoan American Medal of Honor recipient Army Pfc. Herbert K. Piliilau born. He made "gallant self-sacrifice" in 1951 during the Korean War.

**11-1994** Chinese American Frederick Pang sworn in as assistant secretary of defense for force management policy.

## NOVEMBER

**1-1941** Japanese Americans start teaching at Army intelligence school.

**8-1944** The 442nd Regimental Combat Team rescues 211 survivors of the 36th Infantry ("Texas") Division's "Lost Battalion" in France at a cost of 200 killed and 600 wounded.

**11-1939** William Shao Chang Chen born; becomes first Chinese American to be appointed major general in U.S. Army.

## DECEMBER

**4-1943** Military Order No. 45 exempts Korean Americans from enemy alien status.

**8-1969** Junzo Matsumuna, first Japanese midshipman at U.S. Naval Academy (Class of 1873), admitted.

**9-1943** U.S. Senate passes resolution granting Philippines independence as soon as conditions return to normal after World War II.

**15-1943** First Chinese American officer in U.S. Marine Corps, Wilbur Carl Sze, commissioned as second lieutenant.

**17-1943** President Roosevelt signs repeal for Chinese Exclusion Act; soon thereafter 14,000 Chinese Americans drafted into armed forces.

**20-1941** U.S. Congress resolutions allows almost unlimited enlistment and employment of Filipino Americans in war effort.

**22-1987** President Reagan signs American Homecoming Act allowing immigration to U.S. of Vietnamese children with American parentage.

**27-1944** U.S. War Department ends internment of Japanese Americans.

**29-1941** As of this date, 50 Korean Americans had registered for California National Guard duty.

**31-1933** Lt. Gen. Allen K. Ono born, the Army's first three-star Japanese American.

# Command Master Chief Represents Navy in Wreath Laying Ceremony



ARLINGTON, Va. – Navy Information Operations Command (NIOC) Maryland Command Master Chief Alicia Barnes represented the United States Navy during the Congressional Caucus for Women’s Issues annual wreath-laying ceremony at the national cemetery May 14, a ceremony that for more than 15 years has served to remember the women who have given their lives in service to this country.

The ceremony particularly commemorated the 159 women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in Afghanistan and Iraq. It was also recognizing the current women serving still serving in the armed forces today.

Barnes, a native of Bronx, New York, has served in the Navy for nearly 30 years. In her years of service she has served as a CMC at three different commands.

“It was very humbling to represent the Navy at such an event, particularly at this time of year as the nation was about to celebrate Memorial Day,” said Barnes. “It was an honor to remember those women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation.”

In front of the Woman in Military Service for America Memorial, five female members of the caucus recognized one representative from each Department of Defense military service and the U.S. Coast Guard. Barnes was among the group being recognized.

“Those of us representing each service stood in honor of those before us and as role models for those following behind us,” said Barnes. “It showed that women of all services are equally important, and that we share in the same sacrifices as men. Together, we placed a wreath to honor those women who have fallen and we each placed a rose in personal tribute to those women. It created a very solemn and moving ceremony. I was truly humbled to represent such service and sacrifice for our great Navy.”

A moment of silence followed for all fallen female service members, and an Army bugler played taps to conclude the ceremony.



# SPORTS DAY



# SAILOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Petty Officer 3rd Class Shannon Spencer



Petty Officer Shannon Spencer was born on an Army base in Vicenza, Italy January 5th 1994 and was raised in Kannapolis, North Carolina. Both her parents were Radiomen during Desert Storm and they met during communication chatter. She says her whole life she knew that she was going to join the military. When asked why she chose the Navy she replied by saying:

"I chose the Navy mainly because it's my family tradition. I am at least fifth generation military. My Mom, Dad, Grandfather and Great-Grandfather were all Sailors. I also knew by going into the military I would become more mature and help earn myself a paycheck."

Petty Officer Spencer's says her family means everything to her. She is the oldest of four siblings. She has two younger sisters and one younger brother. Her sisters are eighteen and six. Her younger brother is fourteen.

"Another reason I joined the military was to help my family back home financially. I help out with the bills and food. If my little brother and sisters need anything I help them out as well."

Spencer's Great-Grandfather and Grandfather both retired from the Navy as well. One might say "salt runs in her veins" or "it's in her blood," but was she was persuaded to join the Navy because she came from such a strong Navy background?

"My parents didn't influence me to join the Navy. They gave me the reasons why I should join the

Navy, but they ultimately let me make the decision myself. My parents definitely were ecstatic about me joining. Really, my entire family was proud and happy about it. I preferred the Navy because it's the oldest branch and I like the history. I also like that we get to travel around on ships and see different ports and I'm not always trapped on land."

Spencer may have developed expectations of the Navy from hearing stories from her family, but experiencing it first hand is different. She said, her favorite things so far is meeting people and traveling. When asked how she likes the Navy so far she says overall it has been a pretty good experience.

"I've made plenty of friends and I've already been to Chicago, Florida and Texas. Traveling has to be one of my favorite things. Honestly, I prefer to travel by train rather than a plane though. Trains are a lot cheaper than by traveling on a plane. You get to go through all sorts of towns, cities, and villages. You can actually watch the land change and meet more people as they come and leave the train."

Petty Officer Spencer is the Granddaughter of an EOD Diver and a Gunner's Mate. She is also the Daughter of two Radiomen. How did she become a CTR?

"Originally while at MEPS, I wanted to join as Master at Arms and work for a K9 unit or be a Journalist. They told me I couldn't be a Master at Arms because at the time I didn't have a license and I am too small to handle a gun and a dog. The

Journalism field had been backed up for almost two years. Then they told me about CTR. They said it was similar to Journalism because I would be able to read a lot and its part of the intelligence community. I like to read and my parents were both in the intelligence community so I thought, that doesn't sound too bad. I figured, why not? If I don't like it after a few years I will try to go to another school and try something else."

Even though Spencer's job isn't what she originally wanted to do in the Navy, she seems happy about her decision.

"I'm enjoying my job. It's interesting. It's not entirely what I was expecting, but it's definitely something I can get used to. I can do it for 20 years while I'm in, but it's not something I would like to do after I get out of the Navy."

Spencer's job takes a lot of her time, but she does have a few hobbies that she likes to do while she is off work

"I like to sleep; I have a mink blanket I got in Florida that knocks me out because of the weight of it. I also like watch Anime, playing RPG games like Dragon Age and Table Top games like Pathfinder and Dungeons and Dragons."

Lastly, Petty Officer Spencer's long term goals include making Warrant Officer and her short term goals are earning her EIDWS and making E5 before leaving the command. She said also added starting college is a possibility.

