



NVN News

incorporating NCCV's newsletter Rogues' Yarn

<http://navyvic.net>

Navy Victoria Network

May 2018

Volume 8 Edition 5



Yes, we are now on Facebook, where all our news items, photos etc. will also be published.

<https://facebook.com/navyvictoria>

Editorial

NVN current membership: 1090

THE NAVY IN VIETNAM

On Friday 19 May 2018 the Federal member for Flinders (and Minister for Health) Greg Hunt announced that the Government had made a grant of \$5 million towards the establishment of a National Vietnam War Museum which will supersede the existing Museum at Phillip Island. The announcement was made to a small gathering at the site of the current Museum – a former hangar at the Phillip Island airport. Publicity concerning the event was mainly confined to the local area but was greeted with acclaim by those present – particularly the citizens who have been closely involved in building the Museum up over recent years.

The existing Museum is heavily focused on Army and the battles fought by our gallant and highly-regarded soldiers through the protracted conflict. Records and evidence of the role played by Air Force have been increased in recent times but that played by Navy is inadequately portrayed. Any visitor to the facility would get a less-than-adequate appreciation of the degree of involvement of the Royal Australian Navy.

The Navy's role included integrated bombardment operations with the USN 7th Fleet by our three DDG's and Daring class Destroyers off the DMZ and in the Gulf of Tonkin; provision of Naval Gunfire Support off the coast of both North and South Vietnam; operations by RAN Helicopter detachments in support of Army in South Vietnam; operations by Clearance Diving Team detachments in inland and coastal waterways; and 25 voyages by HMAS SYDNEY

Calendar Events

(see calendar for details of all events)

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22 Jul 2017 - 29 Jul 2018 – Nerves and Steel - The Royal Australian Navy in the Pacific December 1941 – September 1945 (Exhibition at the Shrine)

28 May – NHS meeting (all welcome)

01 Jun – On this day in 1942 - HMAS KUTTABUL lost during the Japanese midget submarine attack on Sydney harbour.

03 Jun – On this day in 1969 - HMAS Melbourne & USS Frank E. Evans collision - 74 lives lost.

06 Jun – Normandy veterans association wreath laying

11 Jun – On this day in 1943 - HMAS WALLAROO sunk. Three sailors lost.

12 Jun – HMAS Dubbo picked up survivors from HMAS Wallaroo

16 Jun – On this day in 1942 - HMAS NESTOR sunk in the Mediterranean.

17 Jun – 'N' class destroyers wreath laying

18 Jun – On this day in 1944 – HMAS Matafele vanished without trace on a voyage from Townsville to Milne Bay. The vessel carried a crew of 37.

30 Jun – On this day in 1942 HMAS Waterhen sunk.

30 Jun – HMAS Waterhen wreath laying.

in her Transport role taking Troops, Vehicles and logistic supplies to and from Australia to South Vietnam. At stages in her voyages SYDNEY was escorted by Destroyers and Frigates through waters where a threat was deemed to exist. In all, more than 12000 Navy personnel were involved in these operational activities.

It is now approaching half a century since Australia's controversial involvement in this conflict concluded. Australians of today and those of future generations need to have access to records, history and museums which present an accurate and balanced perspective on conflicts in which the nation has participated. To enable this to happen in respect of the Vietnam War, those who were involved need to make every effort to ensure that relevant material, photographs, diaries, letters, tapes, artifacts etc., be gathered together and brought forward before they get thrown out or trashed and disappear into the mists of time.

Readers of this website are encouraged to consider what they, individually, may have in their personal possession which may be of interest to those who come after us. Ways and means are available to all of us to contribute what we can – and if we do so we can ensure that the National Vietnam War Museum can and will be designed to have an appropriate and proportional representation of the Navy's role in that conflict.

The era of Navy being the 'Silent Service' is long gone. We have much to be proud of in respect of the defence and freedom of our nation: we must ensure that records of our contribution and achievements are made available to future generations.

Yours Aye!

NVN Team

VALE

- † EMWE J. Ostenfeld, R96574, 12 May 2018. Aged 66.
- † CAPT P.G. Duncan LVO RAN, 09 May 2018. Aged 88.
- † LSRO G. Barton, 05 May 2018.
- † CPOETC M. Clancy, 01 May 2018. Aged 59.
- † WOFC M.W. Kirkland, R48648, 30 April 2018. Aged 84.
- † CPO D.W. Mellowship, 30 April 2018. Aged 75.
- † CAPT W.G. Wright KM RAN, 29 April 2018.
- † AB H.C. Peers, PM8644, 31 March 2018. Aged 91.
- † D.W. Hayes, R55209, 24 March 2018. Aged 76.

Lest We Forget

Latest News Headlines

NOTE: The full articles of the news items listed below can be found on our website:

<http://navyvic.net/news/news.html>

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LATEST VIDEOS.....

- *Navy contribution to Exercise Croix du Sud*
- *HMAS Adelaide and Canberra head out to sea*
- *Indonesian Chief of Navy's visit to Sydney*
- *20th Anniversary of the HMAS Westralia Fire*

NEWS.....

Navy members present and past are being encouraged to send in their old dress uniform buttons as part of an ambitious project to commemorate those who died in World War One.

Survivor of USS Frank E. Evans disaster that killed son dies at 93
Lawrence Reilly Sr. barely survived the 1969 collision that sent half of the USS Frank E. Evans to the bottom of the South China Sea with his namesake son and 73 other shipmates trapped inside.

HMAS Warramunga has seized two more hauls of illicit narcotics valued at approximately AUD\$315.4 million following boarding operations in international waters of the Arabian Sea this week.

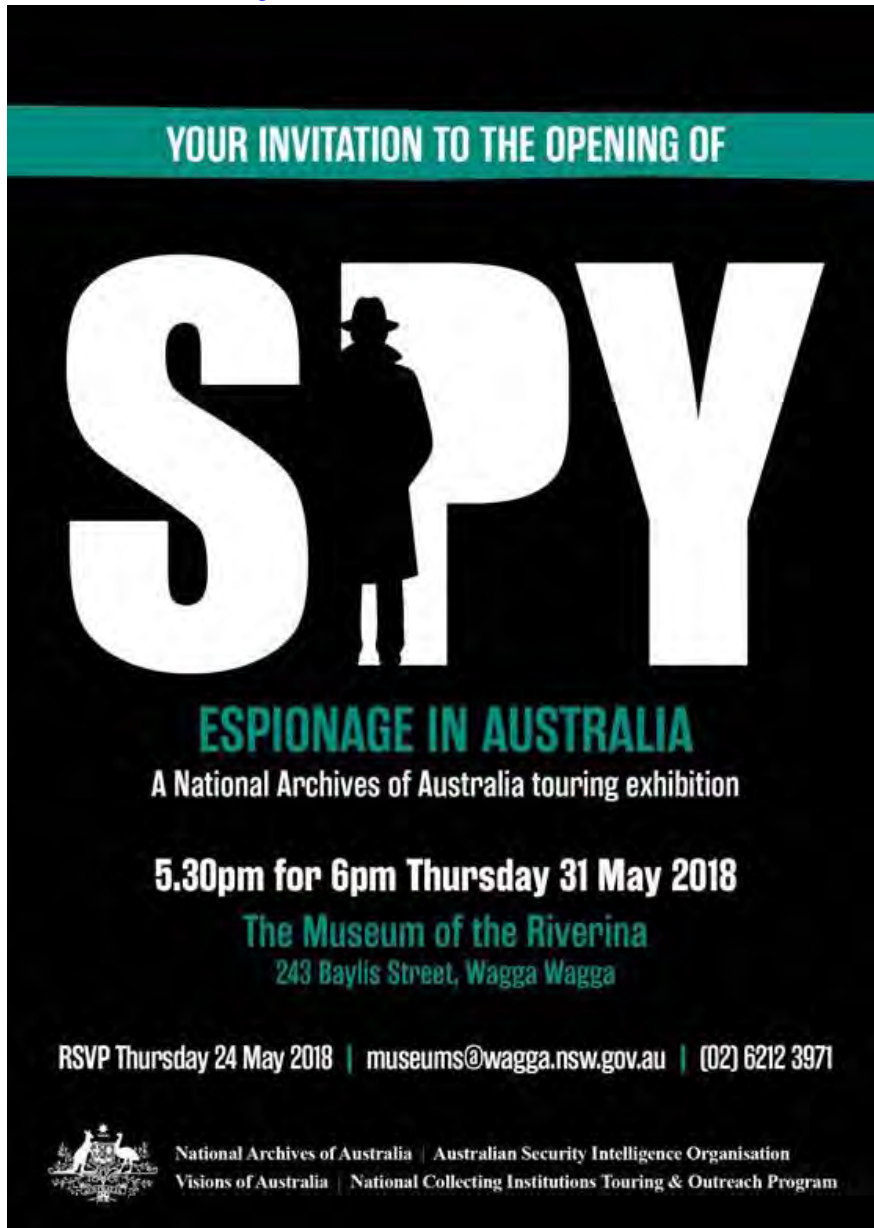
The US defense department has decided to withdraw its invitation for China to take part in the upcoming large-scale exercise Rim of the Pacific in Hawaii.

As part of DVA's commitment to improving access to services for veterans and their families, the new Veteran Payment is now available to

Note: VALE Notices

If you know of any of our Navy family that has crossed the bar, please don't hesitate to let us know (webmaster@navyvic.net). We would like to list their names in perpetuity on our special 'Vale' wall on the website. If possible list their Rank, Name, Number, the date of their passing and their age.

A travelling exhibition 'SPY', launched by the National Archives of Australia opens in Wagga Wagga on Thursday 24th May 2018. On 31st May 2018 the exhibition will move to the Museum of the Riverina's Historic Council Chambers and be open until 12th August 2018. The Exhibition contains interesting information on the RAN's involvement with code breaking, principally through the work of Captain Eric Nave before, during and after WW2.




YOUR INVITATION TO THE OPENING OF

SPY

ESPIONAGE IN AUSTRALIA
A National Archives of Australia touring exhibition

5.30pm for 6pm Thursday 31 May 2018
The Museum of the Riverina
243 Baylis Street, Wagga Wagga

RSVP Thursday 24 May 2018 | museums@wagga.nsw.gov.au | (02) 6212 3971

 National Archives of Australia | Australian Security Intelligence Organisation
Visions of Australia | National Collecting Institutions Touring & Outreach Program

eligible individuals and their partners.

Nutrition will be the theme for this year's Veterans' Health Week with funding for applications to support events highlighting the week now open for ex-service organisations (ESOs) and community groups.

In a highly provocative move, China has deployed anti-ship cruise missiles (ASCMs), as well as surface-to-air missile (SAM) systems, to three disputed territories—Mischief Reef, Fiery Cross Reef and Subi Reef—in the South China Sea.

Submissions for the Productivity Commission inquiry into Compensation and Rehabilitation for Veterans are being encouraged by Minister for Veterans' Affairs Darren Chester.

Improving the way veterans transition into civilian life will continue to be a major focus for the Coalition Government following the Federal Budget.

The Royal Australian Navy's newest ship has been launched during a ceremony at Osborne Naval Shipyard in Adelaide. The Hobart Class Destroyer Sydney carries a proud name and is a significant warfighting enhancement to Australia's fleet.

The first birdie to serve in STS Young Endeavour will fly back to HMAS Albatross when her posting to the sail training tall ship ends later this month.

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) has taken to the sea and skies of Malaysia and Singapore to enhance interoperability and strengthen the professional relationships of the Five Power Defence Arrangements (FPDA) nations.

Around 300 members of the

Royal Navy selling former minehunter as potential “stylish restaurant or floating bar”



The Royal Navy is selling its decommissioned minehunter HMS Walney and is advertising the vessel as a “one of a kind opportunity” for potential buyers.

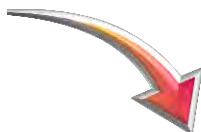
Announcing the potential sale of the vessel, the navy said Walney has potential to be turned into “a houseboat, a stylish restaurant, a floating bar or even an office-space packed with individuality”.

The former Sandown-class minehunter was decommissioned in October 2010 and is no longer in running condition, as her engines and most of the equipment have been removed.

Walney is safe for towing however and is currently moored in Portsmouth from where it will be sold. The navy’s guide price is £30,000.

This is the second time the Royal Navy is trying to sell the vessel after it failed to attract buyers for the vessel in 2014.

Naval Commemoration Committee of Victoria’s newsletter, “Rogues’ Yarn” is attached below



Australian Defence Force have joined a French-led multinational force to participate in valuable disaster response training designed to increase Australia’s interoperability with other regional nations.

Australian government’s \$89 billion program to develop new ships and submarines carries a high to extreme level of risk, the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) warned in its recent audit.

Building on its already successful Operation MANITOU deployment, the crew of HMAS Warramunga has seized and disposed of 295 kilograms of heroin valued at about \$88.5 million.

Veterans and their families will continue to come first with \$100 million in additional funding provided in the 2018-19 Budget announced on Tuesday.

Navy’s ability to track and hunt submarines is being put to the test in a high-end warfare exercise off the coast of Scotland.

An autonomous minesweeper system that can safely clear sea lanes of mines has been handed over to the Royal Navy, UK Defence Minister Guto Bebb has announced.

Naval Historical Society of Australia (Vic) President’s May musings is now available to [download.....](#)

Don’t forget to visit the [website](#) as there are many more news articles that may be of interest to you but are not included in this newsletter.



Naval Commemoration Committee of Victoria

ROGUES' YARN

1. 'N' Class Destroyers Service, 1100, Sunday 17JUN18 in the Sanctuary.
2. HMAS Waterhen Service, 1400, Saturday 30JUN18 in the Sanctuary.
3. Reserve Forces Day, 1000, Sunday 1JUL18 at the Cenotaph.
4. Far East Strategic Reserve Service, 1200, Friday 6JUL18 in the Sanctuary.

HMAS AUSTRALIA

The 'HMAS *Australia* Room' was commissioned on Friday, 25MAY18 within HMAS *Cerberus* Museum.



The 'Australia' room was filled with more than sixty Veterans, family & friends for this memorable occasion. WO Marty Grogan OAM RANR, Manager - HMAS *Cerberus* Museum had the duty of being the Master of Ceremonies. Marty said "We are Commissioning the HMAS *Australia* Room in the presence of five HMAS *Australia* 2 Sailors: Bruce Crow along with Dudley Adcock, Arthur Lidden, Des Shinkfield, Norm Tame and John Willoughby. We also have with us a WW2 WRAN Margaret Hattersley and a WW2 HMAS *Assault*/ HMAS *Kanimbla* Sailor, Hiram Ristrom." Marty enthralled those present with anecdotes of how the museum has progressed over the past decade and in particular how the HMAS *Australia* Room was borne. Marty praised his expert team of volunteers: John Douglas, Neils Rutzou, Jan Gallagher, Eric Mushins, Rex Williams and Kristine Bramstone for their dedication towards preserving Navy's history, ensuring its available to like-minded people. The HMAS *Australia* Association President, Grant Knox (son of Neil Knox) and his wife Karren, along with their members also gave of their time and memorabilia to help bring the project to fruition. Des Shinkfield, WW2 and HMAS *Australia* Veteran had previously presented five of his own oil paintings, each identifying one of the five occasions *Australia* was stuck by

Japanese kamikaze aircraft. *Australia*, believed to be the first of many Allied Warship subjected to such terror. Marty described how three weeks ago this room, situated in the former School of Music, opposite the Main Museum Building (Former Supply School) was a storeroom. The photograph below of the front of the *Australia* Room shows two White Ensigns, one was hoisted on the *Australia* and the smaller flown on its boats. On display was the uniform of CPO Coxswain Tom Prior. Tom paid off in the mid seventies and served aboard *Australia*, 1947 to 1948. There are many artefacts in the room, from personal letters to a book of official Navy death notices, opened at the page of Captain Emile Dechaineux DSC RAN. The document notes the death of CAPT Dechaineux on that tragic day of 21OCT44 when the ship was first struck by a kamikaze aircraft. This day was an occasion to be cherished. Possibly the last major project to be undertaken by Marty as leader of the volunteer team. A great effort and thanks for the memories!



Access to *Cerberus* Museum is problematic due to security arrangements, however, you can view the exhibitions provided you make prior arrangements. For access information go to the Navy website - navy.gov.au/history/museums/museum-hmas-cerberus

The Legend



Victoria has been very fortunate to have one of the all time legends working on behalf of Navy and the wider Navy fraternity. Pictured above are two Grogans, Captain Darren Grogan CSC RAN marching alongside his son WO Marty Grogan OAM RANR. Two proud Navy men who have made an enormous contribution to the Australia Defence Force over a long period of time. Marty has entered his 'run down period' with over fifty years in rig, son Darren has over thirty years of service and we can expect even greater things from him as he takes on challenges at sea and ashore. A great Navy family and one that sets the bar very high with respect to getting the job done!



Disclaimer

Articles contributed are the Authors thoughts. Articles may be edited to meet the available space. Political articles will not intentionally appear in R's Yarn.

Melbourne Naval Committee

MNC provides much needed funds to support welfare. A venue is available at Mission to Seafarers for like-minded groups, no cost. Email Daria at MtS daria.wray@missiontoseafarers.com.au to make a booking.

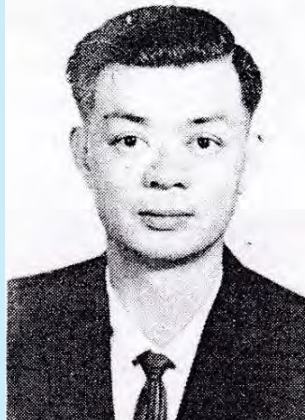
Navy Victoria Network

The NavyVIC website is there for all to see, in particular it is for Ship Associations to provide information on their activities to the wider Navy Community. This is an opportunity for all ship/branch associations to broaden their horizons.

Wackatack

At the re-union of the HMAS Vendetta crew in Mildura recently, the loss of Mr Chow Shui Kun was recounted. Vendetta was deployed to the Far East and took aboard the usual Royal Navy Unofficial Chinese Service. Mr Chow was the shoe

maker, nick name Wackatack. He had been in that role since 1957. Most who served during the 1950s and 60s would have experience the friendship and work of these men. They also ran the laundry and retailed a host of gifts especially



suited for a returning sailor. The loss of Mr Chow occurred on the night of 28th April 1974 whilst returning to the ship by water taxi. He was accompanied by four sailors and an officer. The taxi sank, without notice and all were thrust into the dirty, muddy river. Unfortunately, Mr Chow could not swim and although supported by two Vendetta friends he was eventually swept away by the current.

Affiliates

The NCCV partnered with the Naval Association, Melbourne Naval Committee and all available Ship Associations in Victoria to discuss how best to map out a sustainable future. The general consensus was that the Naval Association of Australia was the only national organisation with the structure and network to provide the coverage of Navy interests likely to prove effective. The first gathering was some 7 years ago and little progress has been made. What is evident is the failure of several ship associations. It is also evident that those associations that have failed isolated themselves from descendants and to some extent Navy in more recent times. The desire to partition an association from outsiders may have been passable a decade or two ago, today, there is a need to encourage collaboration with others. Embracing so called outsiders needs to be re-evaluated. To underscore the point, we need to think of how many re-unions are organised and

for what purpose. A prime purpose of a re-union is the comradeship that stems from earlier service. Any re-union also relies upon partners being welcomed into the fold. There tends to be a desire to create time based unions, such as commissioning crews or a theatre of war. These entities are important and do not need to be diminished through amalgamation or consolidation of associations, however, insisting on time based arrangements has proved detrimental to the viability of associations. Over the years, new champions have emerged with the energy and enthusiasm to promote their respective interests and / or associations. Notwithstanding, the end game requires all of these champions to focus on bringing their interests to a collective conclusion. That will require persuasion and serious thinking to bring about a change of heart. Our end goal needs to be on positioning all of our Associations under the umbrella of the Naval Association. This move may best initiated by affiliating with the Naval Association.

Australia Room - Activities

Page one describes the activities that revealed the HMAS *Australia* Room to a group of interested folk. Part of this occasion was the presentation of a book written by Gaye Lewis, past secretary of the Armed Merchant Cruiser/Landing Ship Infantry Association. Gaye worked on the book for more three years and the outcome of her effort was well received. The book is an account of Hiram Ristrom's WW2 experience from joining HMAS *Cerberus*, training at HMAS *Assault* before joining HMAS *Kanimbla*. Pictured below, Hiram was most appreciative of the publication and the opportunity it will provide for



others to fathom the environment of those manning and operating in the Landing Ship's during WW2. Hiram is well known to the Veteran Community and attends many commemoration services throughout the year. Pictured below shows the gift of a painting



of *Westralia* with HMAS *Arunta*, a gift by Doug and Ross Hooley to the Museum. Doug, the son of Alan Hooley, past and well known

president of the HMAS *Westralia* Association and avid supporter of the Veteran Community. Doug mentioned that the painting was above his parents fireplace for many decades and was only removed recently. In response to the generous support provided by Doug and Ross over recent years, Marty arranged for two displays of their father's medals. These were presented in a splendid framed panel. The occasion brought together a wonderful group of Veterans, their family and friends. There was considerable goodwill in the room and many marvelled at the accomplishments of the WW2 Veterans and their ability to convey their experiences in such a lucid and interesting manner. Hopefully the collection at *Cerberus* will be enduring for all to see.

Great Job

Pictured below is Captain Tim Standen CSC RAN Commanding Officer HMAS *Cerberus* presenting Lieutenant Commander Cassandra Mohapp RAN a Certificate of Appreciation for 20 years service. Cassandra, formally the Band Master, RAN Band Melbourne Detachment was appointed First Lieutenant HMAS *Cerberus* in 2017. This presentation is indicative of a job particularly well done, not just being out of category, but due to the dedication and success of how Cassandra goes about the task.



Long Service

Pictured below are two presentations made by Head of Navy Engineering, RADM Colin Lawrence AM RAN. Left is Lieutenant Commander Mark Fielder, RAN. RADM Lawrence is presenting Mark with his Federation Star, when added to his Defence Long Service Medal it shows he has served 40 years service in the Royal Australian Navy. Below right is



RADM Lawrence presenting Lieutenant Commander Eric Mushins RANR with his second Federation Star. A magnificent effort marking 45 years service. Mark and Eric are two stalwarts of HMAS *Cerberus*, both have devoted enormous time, energy and enthusiasm to Australia's Defence Force through their time in a variety of roles. We wish them well for the future.

Special Notes

Correction. In our last edition we stated that AE2 was the only submarine to successfully traverse the Dardanelles during the Gallipoli Campaign. While AE2 was the first submarine to successfully traverse the Dardanelles into the Sea of Marmara, it was not the only one. A number of RN E class submarines and one French submarine also got through the Dardanelles to attack Turkish and German Warships. (thank you to Stephen Turner).

Navy Week. Preparations are underway for several activities planned for Navy Week in October. The annual Seafarers Church Service will be held on Sunday 21 OCT 18 at St Paul's Cathedral. The seminar is scheduled for Saturday, 20 OCT 18 with the venue to be determined. Other events, such as the golf will be advised as commitments come to hand. Hopefully these dates will be diarised accordingly.

HMAS Castlemaine Museum Ship. Castlemaine is now under new management. Congratulations to CMDR Dennis Gale RAN Rtd on becoming the new President of the management committee. The Castlemaine is presented in first class order. Time to take the family for a visit!

Ramon Deed. A retreat specifically for ex-Service families and friends. More info at 03 5027 4447.



Care. The Advocacy Training and Development Program (ATDP) provides training in Military Advocacy for members of Ex-Service Organisations (ESO) which offer advocacy services to serving and ex-serving members of the armed forces and their dependants. The program is funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Veterans' Affairs. If interested in learning more, go to the DVA website, search ATDP.



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President's dit

I am advised that my constant reminder about contributing to the Navy fraternity probably falls into the category of preaching. Notwithstanding, there can be no let up on the need for each of us to recognise that the long term future of our respective associations is dependent upon active participation. With respect to commemoration there can be no debate about attending a service or two during any twelve month period, if you don't think it is relevant, then don't support the service. The relevance of past events on the ex-Navy fraternity; where a sailor made the supreme sacrifice, or where a shipmate is not longer able to stand at our side is clear. Commemoration is a reminder that many have done their duty and above all demonstrated loyalty to our sovereignty. This past service has been vital to delivering the Australia we know today. Being in or having served in Australia's Defence Force runs thick in the veins of many. Our challenge at the very least is to participate to some degree so the collective voice of Navy, old and new is there to be seen and heard. A voice used to primarily advocate and demonstrate support for Navy and its role in keeping us safe.

Yours aye, Terry Makings