

# The Anchor

Nebraska Admirals Association

Fall/Winter 2020-2021

[www.nebraskaadmirals.org](http://www.nebraskaadmirals.org)

**Christmas ornaments for service members and veterans, Scholarship finalists, milestones and more...**

**Twenty-twenty was a challenging year for everyone, but the Admirals are sailing forward in 2021! Let's celebrate '35' and '90' years! (Read more inside!)**



Robrucha Cartoons  
2101 S. Garfield Ave - 228  
Loveland, CO 80537

**T**his drawing was donated to NAA by Admiral Robert Bruce Chambers, artist aka ROBRUCHA, who recently retired to Colorado. It is the 'official' picture for this illustrious year! Thank you so much, Admiral Chambers! This illustration will appear on the keepsake placemats that will be used at the 2021 Annual Conference.



The annual Nebraska Admirals Association Christmas Ornament project was a great success in 2020, as evidenced by the warm “thank-you’s” received from the crews of the USS NEBRASKA submarine and the four veterans homes in the state. (Although we received enough ornaments to include the USS OMAHA, we were unable to make connections with any of the LCS folks to arrange for sending them.)



Thanks to all the students in Grand Island, Kearney, Alma, Axtell and Elkhorn for helping cheer on “our” sailors!

## SCHOLARSHIPS CHANGE FOR 2021

The applicants from the hospitality degree program at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln have applied for one of the two scholarships from NAA valued at \$1500 each.

Board members will interview each applicant soon via ZOOM; winners will attend the Conference in Kearney.

# Celebrating '90'..... And '35' Years!

**N**ow how can that be? Well, in 1931, the very first Admiral certificates were issued by then-Lt. Governor Theodore Metcalf to 47 folks.

So, 2021 marks 90 years since that event. (Metcalf, a Republican, served under Democrat Gov. Charles Bryan, brother of well-known Nebraskan William Jennings Bryan. Metcalf found himself 'temporarily in power' when Bryan went out of state.)

And back on April 1, 1984, during a blizzard no less, a large group of Admirals gathered in Kearney, Nebraska, to discuss the possibility of creating an organization to promote Nebraska and its tourism destinations. Two years later, on April 1, 1986, came the official launching of the Society of Nebraska Admirals, aboard the USS Hazard, a World War 2 mine sweeper dry-docked in Omaha's Freedom Park. Two U.S. Navy Admirals "walked the plank" to punctuate the inaugural ceremonies. The officers, Vice Admiral Ken Moranville, Commander of the 3rd Fleet in the Pacific, and Rear Admiral bobby Bell, Deputy Director of the Joint Strategic Target Planning Staff at Offutt AFB were unscathed, however. They had not been aware that they were "in the wrong Navy"! And they were rewarded with their own Admiral certificates! (Incidentally, the USS Hazard is still located there in Freedom Park!)

The first official Annual Meeting of SONA, its first "anniversary", was held April 1, 1987, in Kearney.

On a recent "freebie day" on the website "Newspapers.com", many articles were found revealing more information. The Lincoln Journal Star on Dec. 27, 1985, stated that the group's mission was 'to promote the state's image and economy'. The official organizing body, the NEBRASKAland Foundation, announced the charter officers and board members of SONA: Fleet Admiral Frank Marsh (former state treasurer), Chief of Staff John Hanlon of Lincoln

(executive director of the NEBRASKAland Foundation), Master Chief Yeoman Col. Ken Adams of Papillion (retired U.S. Air Force officer), and Disbursing Officer Jon VerMoos of Lincoln (convention sales director of the Convention & Visitors Bureau). Elected board members were Bill Ramsay (president-elect of the NEBRASKAland Foundation), Ed Larsen, Myrle D. Fairchild and C.E. Jack Doyle (all of Omaha), and Beverly Kimball of Kearney and Charles Savre of Columbus. (Side-note: Beverly Kimball was wife of Dr. Kenneth Kimball, one of a small group who pressed for adoption of the 9-1-1 system in Nebraska.) Amazement of this 'researcher' set in when the newspaper files revealed articles about the new group in the spring of 1986 appearing in far-flung places, including Miami & Tampa, FL; Wilkes-Barre and York, PA; Alexandria, VA; New Brunswick & Asbury Park, NJ; Bennington, VT; Winona & Minneapolis, MN; Alexandria, LA; Johnson City, TN; Orangeburg, SC; Decatur, IL; Sheboygan, WI; Johnson, TN; Lead & Sioux Falls, SD; and even Wichita, KS.

In 1992, The USS NEBRASKA submarine was christened in Connecticut. Photos of the event show a very large crowd of civilians on the dock; many of them were Nebraska Admirals! Supposedly, the Secretary of the Navy was a bit surprised to find out who they were and remarked how "naming a sub after a namesake state must be a good thing".

But, the story continues, letters sent to the governor of Louisiana got no response whatsoever, let alone any crowds at the dock!

When the word had reached the Nebraska Admirals group in March of 1992, a committee determined that it would be important to have not only a U.S. flag aboard the sub, but also a Nebraska flag and a Q125 (quincentennial) flag. To make them extra-special, Nebraska Admirals Byron Niemann and Roy D. Landis made contact with the officials of all 93 counties in the

state. Soon thereafter, they hopped in a small plane and flew to the 93 county seats, where a car met them to speed them to the county courthouse, where the two flags were run up the pole, a brief 'observance' was held, the flags came down the pole, were folded properly, and packed off back to the airport, where the two Admirals hopped back on for the flight to the next location. The project was completed in time for the completed in time for the August 15 christening in Connecticut when the flags were presented to the boat. (Submarine sailors will tell you that the sub is a 'boat', as 'ships' are just targets!) To this day, those three flags are ensconced in a special framed display on board the sub!

In 1995, the Society was reorganized as an independent group, the Society of Nebraska Admirals (which thus made the newsletters the SONAR – Society of Nebraska Admirals Report!). Initial incorporators included Byron Neiman, Roy Landis, Shirley Kohle, Joy Kokes, Tom Brady, Kendall Neiman, Ray Cope, Edward Follis, Roger Nelson and Gloria LeDroit. In 2004, the new group was granted 501(c)3 status.

For the SONA/NAA's 20th year celebration in 2006, Gov. Heineman hosted a gathering in the rotunda of the Capitol building in Lincoln. Then-Fleet Admiral Melvin Millsap of Broken Bow presented a special "all-Nebraska" plank to

remain with the office of whoever was Governor. The plank was a unique design created by Guy Miller II (son of Guy G. Miller, co-creator of Nebraska's official state song with Jim Fras, a Russian emigrant). The plank was about 8 feet long, made with 4 pieces of wood that had travelled around to various celebrations around the state to be signed by citizens at each destination. After their journeys, they were anchored together by a central metal circle especially made for the celebration. Although this plank's current location is unknown (no one at the Capitol seems to be able to locate it!), there are pictures of it in our newsletters of the period.

In browsing thru the recently found newspaper articles, one thing is clear: Receiving an Admiral's certificate is a significant recognition of a person's good-deed-doing for our great state. It's worthy of inclusion in biographies, lists of accomplishments, even in obituaries! So, if YOU have received this honor, be pleased! Continue to support your state, community and submarine boldly and enthusiastically!

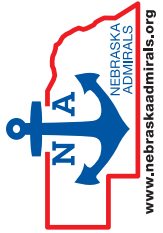
And let's continue to serve  
honorably into the future!  
May it be SMOOTH SAILING!

JOIN US for the "90 – 35"  
celebration in Kearney on  
Saturday, April 10, 2021!  
Notices will be sent to all  
Admirals members with a  
Nebraska address soon!  
Reserve your spot  
BEFORE March 31st!



SPECIAL  
AUCTION ITEMS  
will be offered at our  
Conference, such as this  
shirt, to help support  
our scholarship  
program!  
There are a limited  
number of  
'sub swag' items.



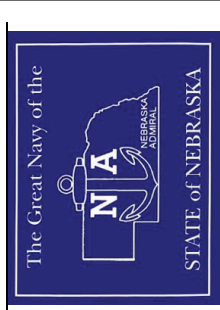


If you have any questions, please feel free to contact David Olson at 308-520-3870

To order any of the items above, please fill out this form and send along with check made out to:

**NEBRASKA ADMIRALS ASSOCIATION to DAVID OLSON  
223 W. 1<sup>ST</sup> STREET • NORTH PLATTE, NE 69101**

ITEM	QTY	AMOUNT	TOTAL
<b>Mail this form to:</b> Quartermaster David Olson 223 W. 1 <sup>st</sup> Street North Platte, NE 69101		<b>Subtotal:</b>	
		<b>Shipping &amp; Handling:</b>	<b>\$8.00</b>
		<b>TOTAL ORDER AMOUNT</b>	



**License Plate Holder**  
(silver frame with blue plaques &  
white lettering)  
**\$20.00**

**Nebraska Admirals  
Association Flag  
(12"x18")  
\$5.00**



**Blank Cards & Envelopes**  
featuring 3 each of U.S.S.  
Centennial, U.S.S. Nebraska,  
U.S.S. Nebraska submarine &  
the Viktoria 12 Total  
**\$25.00**

*I Christen Thee, Nebraska*  
by **Monty McCord**  
**\$3.00**  
Only a few copies left



**Numbered  
Commemorative Coin  
\$15.00**

**Small Bags  
(10"x8")  
\$10.00**



**Polo Shirts**  
**\$25.00**

**Scrambled Eggs**  
**\$3.00**

**Nebraska Admirals Patch**

**We also have Sweatshirts and Ladies crew neck t-shirts with the NAA logo \$25.00**  
**Your purchases help fund the NAA Scholarship and Sailor Hosting Programs.**

Nebraska Admirals Association  
P.O. Box 83723  
Lincoln, NE 68501



DUES ARE DUE JANUARY 1st  
OF EACH YEAR!

CELEBRATE THE NEBRASKA  
ADMIRALS ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE 10 APR 2021

CHEER FOR OUR  
SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!

SUPPORT NEBRASKA TOURISM!  
LEARN ABOUT NEBRASKA 'PASSPORTS'!

SAIL WITH CONFIDENCE INTO THE  
FUTURE OF OUR ASSOCIATION!

HAVE AN ENJOYABLE DAY  
IN KEARNEY!