



# Meridian

March/April 2007

Magazine of the National Naval Officers Association (NNOA) - Gateway to success



**Cmdr. George Thompson has been selected to be the first African-American commanding officer of the Navy Band in Washington D.C.**

## Navy Band Gets First African American Commander

By Seaman Apprentice Ken Ingram, Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) -- Cmdr. George Thompson has been selected as the first African-American commanding officer of the Navy Band in Washington, D.C.

"It's amazing that in the 21st century, year 2007, we still are able to achieve some type of first as African-Americans," said Thompson, former head of Navy Music Program (PERS-4014) at Navy Personnel Command. "I feel extremely proud and I know I'm very blessed."

According to Lt. Cmdr. David Hodge, who coordinates Navy bands nationwide for the Navy Office of Community Outreach (NAVCO),

Thompson's career and achievements makes him the right person for the job.

"The Navy couldn't have made a better pick to lead the Navy Band in Washington, D.C.," said Hodge. "Commander Thompson started out as one of the best pianists in the Navy, rose through the ranks and became known as one of its finest musicians. His entire career as a bandmaster has focused him toward this milestone. We're all certainly proud of him!"

Both of Thompson's parents had musical talent and sang in the choir at the church they attended in Philadelphia. One day after Sunday school, Thompson, to his parent's amazement, sat down at the church's piano and started playing simple melodies he had heard in church. They saved and budgeted to get him a piano and private lessons.

Thompson enlisted in the Navy in the aviation field. When he arrived at

basic training, he was placed in a special company, which consisted of a choir, band and flag details. He was a member of the choir.

"On one rare occasion when we received free time, I went to the choir room to play the piano. Another recruit overheard me playing, and asked what my rate was going to be, mentioning that he was going to the Naval Academy Band as a French horn player and that I should try out for the music program," said Thompson. "I passed my audition and was accepted to the Navy School of Music in Little Creek, Va., thus beginning my Navy music career."

After "A" school, Thompson reported to the Navy Band in Orlando, Fla., where he performed with the contemporary ensemble *Flagship*. In 1980, he transferred to Navy Band Newport, R.I., as keyboardist and vocalist with the *Northeastern Navy Show Band*.

He was commissioned in 1990 and reported to the United States Navy Band in Washington as the officer in charge of the ceremonial unit, giving him his first taste of playing national-level events. In June 1994, he became the 7th Fleet bandmaster, U.S. Fleet Band onboard the *USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19)* in Japan, and then went to Jacksonville, Fla., as director, *Navy Band Southeast*. He later became the CO of the *School of Music*.

"One of my most memorable times in my career was when I was the director of the 7th Fleet Band and I performed for former President William Clinton during his visit to the *USS Independence (CV 62)* in Japan," recalls Thompson. "It was an honor to have him come over and shake my hand after the performance."

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## **NNOA Board of Directors**

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### **NNOA Mission Statement**

National Naval Officers Association actively supports the Sea Services in the development of a diverse officer corps through recruitment, retention, and career development. NNOA is essential in maintaining operational readiness by providing professional development, mentoring, and support of cultural awareness. NNOA establishes and maintains a positive image of the Sea Services in communities and educational institutions.

### **NNOA Vision Statement**

NNOA is the "Gateway to Success" in the Sea Services. We are innovative thinkers committed to a shared vision of leadership, professional exchange and networking. We are the premiere professional development organization in the Sea Services. Our members are empowered with the skills necessary to achieve their full potential. We are an invaluable partner in the Sea Services in the achievement of their recruitment, retention and readiness goals. We recognize our responsibility to our community as we promote and foster American ideals.

**National Naval Officers Association, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 10871**  
**Alexandria, VA 22310-0871**  
**Phone: 703-997-1068 Guest Speaker Mr.**

## **Space camp scholarships available for Marine's kids March 1, 2007**

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, Va. -- Applications are being accepted for the 2007 Bernard Curtis Brown II Memorial NASA Space Camp Scholarship.

Children of active duty service members, in grades six through nine, can apply for the scholarship which was created by the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) in memory of Bernard Curtis Brown II, the 11-year-old son of Chief Petty Officer and Mrs. Bernard Curtis Brown, who was killed on Sept. 11, 2001, when the hijacked airliner was crashed into the Pentagon.

Located in Huntsville, Ala., Space Camp offers a unique, hands-on approach to learning outside the classroom. Activities include simulated Space Shuttle missions, training simulators, rocket building and launches, scientific experiments, and lectures on the past, present, and future of space exploration.

The scholarship covers tuition, meals, lodging, program materials, and transportation, for a five-day program. To apply, students must submit a scholarship application, along with a hand written essay stating why they should be selected, and two letters of recommendation from someone other than a relative. Those applying should ensure that their essays include details of patriotism, community service, future goals and "after camp" intentions.

The 2007 Bernard Curtis Brown II Memorial NASA Space Camp Scholarship application can be found by visiting the Military Child Education Website at <http://www.militarychild.org/Scholarship.asp>

The deadline for submission of applications, hand written essays, and letters of recommendation is Apr. 2, 2007. Completed applications should be sent to:

**Military Child Education Coalition**  
**108 East FM 2410, Suite D**  
**Harker Heights, TX 76548**

For more information contact Kathleen Facon, Section Head, Children, Youth and Teen Programs (MRZ-3) at 703-784-9553 or [kathleen.facon@usmc.mil](mailto:kathleen.facon@usmc.mil).

## **2007 NNOA Fundraiser Trip**

Join the first NNOA fundraiser trip to the beautiful island of Jamaica. Visit one of Jamaica's oldest Plantations. Climb the Dunn's River Falls in Ocho Rios. Bask in the sun at an Exclusive Beachfront resort. Departure June 7th. Return June 11th. Only \$724 per person inclusive, hotel and meals. AIR FARE NOT INCLUDED. Bring the entire family.

Space is still available. Final payment due April 23, 2007. For more information, contact Cmdr. McCallaCreary at 408 268-2933 or email address [retired-rep@nnoa.org](mailto:retired-rep@nnoa.org), or visit [www.nnoa.org](http://www.nnoa.org) for more details.

## Greetings from the President

Traveling to and from work in Washington D.C., it is clear that we are in the dead of winter. I'm excited since this means spring is around the corner and closely followed by the 2007 National Conference. Members of the Board conducted a conference site visit led by Capt. Don Flowers and I am pleased to report that the conference planning is making great progress. Conference topics will provide a broad range of subjects which will benefit junior officers, mid-grade officers, senior officer and retirees. As you know, this is our 35th anniversary and if you have not done so, I highly recommend that you make plans to attend the conference and remember to bring a junior officer with you.

As a reminder, key conference events follow:

1. Founders Day Reception, 1830 - 2100, 16 July 07, Club Coronado Ballroom.
2. Opening Session 0815 - 0900, 17 July 07, Club Coronado Ballroom.
3. Coast Guard Day Luncheon, 1130 - 1300, 17 July 07, Club Coronado Ballroom. Adm. Thad Allen invited.
4. First General Assembly, "State of the Organization," 1500 -1600, 17 July 07, Club Coronado Ballroom.
5. Navy Day Luncheon, 1130 - 1300, 18 July 07, Club Coronado Ballroom. Adm. Mike Mullen invited.
6. Youth Day Program, "Yes I Can," 0800 - 1930, 19 July 07, 32nd St. Naval Station & Adm. Baker Recreation Field.
7. Marine Corps Day Luncheon, 1130 - 1300, 19 July 07, Club Coronado Ballroom. Gen. James Conway confirmed.
8. Spousal Workshop, 1315 - 1455, 19 July 07, Club Coronado Amphibian Room
9. Prayer Breakfast, 0800 - 1000, 20 July 07, Club Coronado Room.
10. Chapter Presidents/Senior Chapter Representatives meet with the National Board, 1200 - 1300 work-



**Capt. Bernard Jackson**

ing lunch, Building 15, Room 2.  
11. Awards Banquet, 1800 - 2400, 20 July 07, Club Coronado Ballroom & Amphibian Room.

12. Worship Services; 0730 - 0755; 17, 18 & 19 July 07. NAB Chapel.

I look forward to seeing you and a record numbers of junior officers at the 2007 conference.

We conducted our first NNOA Retiree Social on 16 February 2007 in San Diego, Calif. I was very encouraged by the great turnout and motivated by the enthusiastic attitude of each of our retired members. I strongly encourage each local chapter to reach out and leverage the expertise in our retired membership to assist you in your local chapter activities.

In support of our objective to partner with like-minded organizations, NNOA, AFCOMAP and the ROCKS conducted a combined Black History Month program at Fort Myers, on 15 February. A special thanks to Capt. Ed Gantt and the Washington D.C. chapter for coordinating this event. The program was an outstanding affair and a clear demonstration of the power which can be generated by a collective effort. I challenge each local chapter to seek out opportunities to partner with ANSO, ROCKS and AFCOMAP.

Since February was Black History Month, I am pleased to announce that

Cmdr. George Thompson is the first African American Bandmaster and commanding officer of the Navy band in Washington, D.C.

According to Lt. Cmdr. David Hodge, who coordinates Navy band activities nationwide for the Navy Office of Community Outreach (NAVCO), Thompson's career and achievements makes him the right person for the job.

"The Navy couldn't have made a better pick to lead the Navy Band in Washington, D.C.," said Hodge. "Cmdr. Thompson started out as one of the best pianists in the Navy, rose through the ranks and became known as one of its finest musicians. His entire career as a bandmaster has focused him toward this milestone. We're all certainly proud of him!"

More information on this significant accomplishment can be found in this issue of the Meridian.

I regret to inform you that due to commitments of a new job, Lt. Karen Eifert has resigned her position as National Public Affairs Officer (PAO). The Board accepted her resignation and voted to appoint Capt. Anthony Cooper as the new National PAO. Capt. Cooper has a great history with the board and I'm confident in his ability to lead us in our efforts to communicate our message. I would like to publicly thank Lt. Eifert for her service and welcome aboard Capt. Cooper.

If you have questions or concerns please contact us via our Website, [www.nnoa.org](http://www.nnoa.org).

Regards,

**Captain Bernard Jackson,  
Executive Board President  
[President@nnoa.org](mailto:President@nnoa.org)**





## 35th Annual Professional Development Training Conference Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, California

"National Naval Officers  
Association, Developing  
America's Future Leaders."

The San Diego Chapter of NNOA in beautiful, sunny San Diego invites you to attend the 35th annual NNOA training conference. The conference chairman, retired Navy Capt. (ret.) Don Flowers and the members of the San Diego Chapter have coordinated with Naval Amphibious Base Coronado to host the five-day conference. The conference date is 16-20 July 2007.

City of San Diego attractions include the world famous San Diego Zoo, Legoland Park, Balboa Park, Coronado Island, Marine World, and of course the beautiful and majestic beaches and gaslight district of the San Diego. This year's conference will also sponsor a youth day and a spousal workshop that will surely make the conference enjoyable to for

the entire family. More detail information on conference cost, etc. will be located on the NNOA web page at <http://www.nnoa.org>.

### **National Reunion for Black Marines is scheduled for June 22 - 24, 2007 in Las Vegas.**

Black Marines have a common bond that has staying power regardless of how much time passes. "Perseverance," states Robert "Bobby" Wallace aka "The Gator," a reunion coordinator. The National Reunion for Black Marines will be held in Las Vegas, June 22 to June 24, 2007 at the Santa Fe Station Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nev.

All Black Marines, including active, retired and reserve are invited to attend the reunion which will be the second such event held. This first reunion was held last year and Wallace noted, "the first reunion was such a success that we decided to have another so that those who were unable to attend could be given another chance to see old friends and meet new brothers."

"We were not allowed to serve in the Marine Corps until 1941 and did not begin to train to become Marines

until 1942," said Wallace. "Then we were segregated or isolated to a base named Camp Montford Point in North Carolina. The goal for all those who entered the training was to become U.S. Marines, the best fighting force ever assembled."

"However, for those that were in charge, the goal was to ensure that we did not succeed but with determination and perseverance we succeeded," concluded Wallace.

There are so many stories to be told by Black Marines that a decision was made to gather every other year and reacquaint and share stories of Marine Corps experiences. After serving in the Marine Corps, Marines go in many different directions and often only meet again when someone becomes ill or passes away.

"In 2002, we decided that we needed to meet under better circumstances and from that we began to network and the first Black Marine Reunion evolved," said Wallace.

For more information on the reunion, contact Robert "Bobby" Wallace aka "The Gator" by phone 352-259-2435 or email at [thegator@thevillages.net](mailto:thegator@thevillages.net).

## Diversity policy

**Editors's note: This CNO memo is dated 2 February 2007 and outlines the Navy's Diversity Policy.**

**D**iversity is a strategic imperative for the United States Navy.

We defend the greatest nation in the world. It is a nation that welcomes, indeed encourages, the active participation of every citizen regardless of race, gender, creed or color -- a democracy founded on the promise of opportunity for all. It is also a nation whose demographic makeup continually changes, reflecting the influx of new immigrants and the growth of minority populations. The Navy must change with it. To the degree we truly represent our democracy, we are a stronger, more relevant armed force.

Diversity is critical to mission accomplishment.

Everyone in our Navy contributes to mission success, and everyone brings to that collective effort unique capabilities and individual talent. How we harness those capabilities and foster that talent bears considerable effect on our ability to successfully accomplish the mission. Like any organization in time of change, we thrive on the infusion of new ideas and the diversity of thought. This is particularly true today, when understanding the mores, customs and ideals of diverse cultures, as well as the perspectives of other people, remains critical to winning the long war.

Diversity is a leadership issue, and everyone is a leader.

We will promote and engender a culture that embraces our diversity. Through our communications, educa-

tion, policies, programs and conduct, each of us will actively foster work environments where people are valued, respected, and provided the opportunity to reach their full personal and professional potential. We will recruit, develop, educate and retain leaders from and for all parts of our Navy and nation.

We defend the greatest nation in the world. The strength of our diversity directly and irrefutably helps us do so. The Navy will stay committed to improving that strength.

**M. G. MULLEN**  
**Admiral, U.S. Navy**  
**Chief of Naval Operations**



## NNOA National Chaplain:

### TO DO WITH WHAT WE HAVE

On Nov. 18, 1995 Itzhak Perlman, the violinist, came on stage to give a concert at Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center in New York City.

If you have ever been to a Perlman concert, you know that getting on stage is no small achievement for him. He was stricken with polio as a child, and so he has braces on both legs and walks with the aid of two crutches.

To see him walk across the stage one step at a time, painfully and slowly, is an awesome sight. He walks painfully, yet majestically, until he reaches his chair. Then he sits down, slowly, puts his crutches on the floor, undoes the clasps on his legs, tucks one foot back and extends the other foot forward.

Then he bends down and picks up the violin, puts it under his chin, nods to the conductor and proceeds to play. By now, the audience is used to this ritual. They sit quietly while he makes his way across the stage to his chair. They remain reverently silent while he undoes the clasps on his legs.

They wait until he is ready to play. But this time, something went wrong. Just as he finished the first few bars, one of the strings on his violin broke. You could hear it snap - it went off like gunfire across the room. There was no mistaking what that sound meant. There was no mistaking what he had to do. People who were there that night thought to themselves: "We figured that he would have to get up, put on the clasps again, pick up the crutches and limp off stage - to either find another violin or else find another string for this one."

But he didn't. Instead, he waited a moment, closed his eyes and then signaled the conductor to begin again. The orchestra began, and he played from where he left off. And he played with such passion and such power and such purity as they had never heard before. Of course, anyone knows that it is impossible to play a symphonic work with just three



**Lt. Carl M. Barnes**  
**NNOA National Chaplain**

strings. I know that, and you know that, but that night Itzhak Perlman refused to know that. You could see him modulating, changing, re-composing the piece in his head. At one point, it sounded like he was de-tuning the strings to get new sounds from them that they had never been heard before. When he finished, there was an awesome silence in the room. And then people rose and cheered.

There was an extraordinary outburst of applause from every corner of the auditorium. We were all on our feet, screaming and cheering, doing everything we could to show how much we appreciated what he had done. He smiled, wiped the sweat from his brow, raised his bow to quiet us, and then he said - not boastfully but in a quiet, pensive, reverent tone - "You know, sometimes it is the artist's task to find out how much music you can still make with what you have left."

What a powerful line that is. It has stayed in my mind ever since I heard it. And who knows? Perhaps that is the definition of life - not just for artists, but for all of us. Here is a man who has prepared all his life to make music on a violin of four strings, who, all of a sudden, in the middle of a concert, finds himself with only three strings; so he makes music with three strings, and the

music he made that night with just three strings was more beautiful, more sacred, more memorable, than any that he had ever made before, when he had four strings. So, perhaps our task in this shaky, fast-changing, bewildering world in which we live is to make music, at first with all that we have, then, when that is no longer possible, to make music with what we have left. Jack Riemer, Houston Chronicle, February 10, 2001.

#### Prayer:

Our God, whose mercy endures forever; look upon our world today with mercy and heal our desolations. Send the angel of your comfort to all those who suffer wherever they may be; those whose lives have been left bitter and bereft from the toil of war. Bear up the prisoners and the wounded, and have mercy upon the dying. And grant to your people everywhere the gift of your love, that they may minister in your name to all who are needy. Amen.

#### Band, from p.1

Thompson is also the first African-American to be commissioned bandmaster through the Navy Limited Duty Officer Selection Program (LDO).

LDOs are technically skilled, former enlisted officers with strong managerial skills. The LDO Program provides commissioning opportunities to chief warrant officers (CWOs), chief petty officers (E-7 through E-9), and petty officer first classes who are selection board eligible for E-7.

"I would encourage all young Sailors, regardless of their ethnicity to take advantage of the education provided by the Navy," said Thompson. "The only person who can hold you back is you."





## Far East Regional VP:



### NNOA Far East, excitement, inspiration and progress

Just as the economic expansion of the 21st century is firmly rooted in the Far East, so has NNOA focused on expanding its presence in this dynamic part of the world. In less than 12 months, the NNOA Okinawa chapter has been reestablished with a full complement of leaders, and an aggressive program to positively impact professional officers in the Navy and Marine Corps. Several meetings, and networking opportunities have occurred since our last article.

During African American History Month, the Okinawa chapter hosted an inspirational Prayer Breakfast. More than 124 persons attended this spiritual event that deeply encouraged all whom were blessed to attend. Additionally, it served as an indicator that the chapter was becoming directly involved in the life of the military community in Okinawa. Several general officers, and commanding Officers lavished praise on the chapter for the dedicated effort they made to reach out to others. Additionally, the chapter is laying the groundwork for the development of a scholarship program, and fund raising drive. Under the outstanding leadership of Marine Corps Maj. Chester McMillon, the chapter has made great strides in a short period. The future of this

chapter is indeed bright!

With the task of expanding our mission in the Far East, the first meeting to reestablish the NNOA Yokosuka chapter on the Kanto Plain of Japan will be held on Thursday 01 March 07. News of the meeting to reestablish the chapter is generating excitement aboard Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Japan. Naval officers are stepping up to the plate, and asking to participate in the chapter's organization and development. For the first time, in a long time, NNOA is establishing a vision for the future development, education, and mentoring of naval officers in Yokosuka.

In conclusion, the past eight months has been a time of hard work, and hope. We owe our efforts to those whom have gone before us, as well as those we are charged to mentor to ensure that the great mission of NNOA will continue to provide the guidance and training that will result in fostering naval leaders. This is our task, and I am confident that success will be met with success.

Very respectfully,

**Cmdr. Derek K. Ross, CHC, USN**  
**Regional Vice President,**  
**NNOA Far East**

### Retiree Volunteers Needed

Plans for our 2007 National Conference in sunny San Diego, California are in full swing. If you are a retiree and would like to help execute the National Conference schedule, volunteers are needed to help with registration at the conference and other miscellaneous duties. Any help from retirees will allow active duty personnel to attend professional training events. Any number of hours or days help is welcomed. Volunteers should contact Cmdr. McCallaCreary at 408 268-2933 or retire-rep@nnoa.org.

### Attention retirees

NNOA would like to locate all its retirees. If you are a retiree, and in touch with any NNOA retiree, we would like their updated contact information. Retirees should visit the website at [www.nnoa.org](http://www.nnoa.org) and follow the prompt for membership update. Any questions, please contact Cmdr. McCallaCreary at 408 268-2933 or retire-rep@nnoa.org.



# NNOA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Cmdr. John V. Fuller

**C**mdr. John V. Fuller, commanding officer, USS Mason (DDG 87), is among many African-American commanding officers serving in today's Navy and is representative of Mason's diversity.



**Cmdr. John V. Fuller**

Fuller is a 1987 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, where he received his commission and a bachelor of science degree in Political Science. His sea tours include Damage Control Assistant and Combat Information Center Officer in USS Vandegrift (FFG 48), Chief Engineer in USS Kauffman (FFG-59), space inspector for the Atlantic Fleet Propulsion Examining Board, serving as Flag Secretary to Commander, Amphibious Force, Seventh Fleet, and Executive Officer, USS Curtis Wilbur (DDG 54). His shore tours include earning a master's degree in Management at the Naval

Postgraduate School and a master's degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College, and serving in the Surface Warfare Directorate at OPNAV.

USS Mason (DDG 87) was commissioned less than four years ago, yet she already has a rich history. The third ship to bear the name Mason, this guided-missile destroyer, commissioned in April 2003, is proud to uphold a tradition of honorable service and diversity.

Today's Mason actually has three namesakes: John Young Mason, who was Secretary of the Navy under Presidents John Tyler and James Polk; ENS Newton Henry Mason, a WWII aviator who earned the Distinguished Flying Cross; and most notably she is named for the second USS Mason, Destroyer Escort 529. DE-529 served as a convoy escort during WWII, and was the first U.S. ship to have a predominantly black crew, with white officers. The men of DE-529 were trained in all Navy rates and specialties, whereas until that point, black men were only permitted to serve as cooks and stewards. DE-529's crew served with distinction, proving themselves not only excellent Sailors, but heroes as well. During the worst North Atlantic storm of the 20th century, DE-529 served as a convoy escort to supply ships going to England. DE-529 was the only

ship to stay with the convoy. Despite her deck splitting and needing emergency repairs, the DE-529 crew rose to the challenge and completed her escort duties. The crewmembers were not recognized for their heroic actions until 1994. The performance of DE-529's crew contributed directly to the desegregation of the Armed Forces in 1947.

A segregated military is unimaginable to today's Sailors. The current USS Mason crew is a true slice of American society, with male and female Sailors of every race and creed, and several who came to the United States from other countries to both enjoy and protect the freedoms this country offers.

Mason is currently four months into her second deployment to the Fifth Fleet, serving successfully in a myriad of roles from Theater Security Cooperation to Maritime Security Operations. Mason has met with tremendous success under Fuller's leadership, earning a reputation as the go-to ship in the area and having the highest standards of crew performance.

Many look upon Fuller as a mark of how far the Navy has come since the segregated Navy of the 1940's.



## Historic moment

Rear Adm. Manson Brown (l), retired U.S. Coast Guard Rear Adm. Errol Brown (c), and Rear Adm Stephen Rochon (r), pause for a picture prior to attending the annual U.S. Coast Guard Commandant's State of the Coast Guard address in Washington, D.C. The trio are the three African-Americans to date who have held flag rank in the U.S. Coast Guard. Photo by PA2 Dena Kourtos, U.S. Coast Guard.



# White House Personnel Announcement

President George W. Bush recently announced two key appointments to the Executive Residence staff, naming Rear Admiral Stephen W. Rochon as Director of the Executive Residence and Chief Usher. Admiral Rochon will be the eighth Chief Usher of the White House.

Adm. Rochon will serve his last day on active duty with the Coast Guard on March 9, and begin his service at the White House on March 12. Rochon succeeds Gary Walters, who retired in January 2007 after 20 years as White House Chief Usher.

"Admiral Rochon is a gifted leader and experienced manager who will be a great addition to the White House and the Residence staff," said President Bush. "Laura and I look forward to working with him." With 36 years in public service, Admiral Rochon has an extensive background in personnel management, strategic planning, and effective interagency coordination. As the Coast Guard's Commander of the Maintenance and Logistics Command Atlantic, Admiral Rochon is responsible for naval and civil engineering, financial management, personnel, legal, civil rights, electronic systems support, and contingency planning across 40 U.S. states, Puerto Rico, Europe, and the Middle East.

A New Orleans native, Rochon served as the Coast Guard's Director of Personnel Management in the aftermath of the 2005 hurricanes, providing support for Coast Guard personnel and their families, and ensuring they had housing and new job assignments.

Rochon has a passion for history and historic preservation. He produced video documentaries in 1989 and 2005 honoring Alex Haley, USCG (Ret) and author of "Roots."

Rochon also spearheaded the posthumous awarding of the Gold



President George W. Bush welcomes Rear Adm. Stephen W. Rochon to the White House.

Lifesaving Medal to the African American crew of the Pea Island Lifesaving Station for their daring rescue in 1896 near the Outer Banks of North Carolina. He has contributed his expertise to a number of museums across the Nation, from Louisiana to Connecticut. Admiral Rochon helped rebuild and preserve the historic significance of three turn-of-the-century homes in New Orleans following the 2005 hurricanes.

Rochon is a highly decorated military officer, and has earned three Legion of Merit medals. He has also received numerous civic and community leadership awards.

Rochon enlisted in the Coast Guard in 1970. He rose through the enlisted ranks and received a commission as an Ensign in 1975 from the Officer Candidate School at Yorktown, Va. He holds a B.S. in Business Administration from Xavier University of Louisiana and a M.S. in National Resource Strategy from the National Defense University.

Rochon is married, and has four children and eight grandchildren.

## Looking for award recipients

If you were an award recipient at the National Conferences held from 2001 to 2006, please submit your rank, name and service, the name of the award you received ASAP to Cmdr. McCallaCreary at 408 268-2933 or retire-rep@nnoa.org.

## Do you know where these Founders are?

In celebration of our 35th year, NNOA is honoring our Founders at the upcoming NNOA National Conference in San Diego, Calif., July 16-20, 2007. If you have contact information or know someone who know someone, please e-mail the NNOA National Historian, Cmdr. Ron Casey at: [historian@nnoa.org](mailto:historian@nnoa.org) or write to: NNOA, P.O. Box 10871, Alexandria, Va., 22310-0871. Below is a list of their names. We need your help now to find them.

### Founders:

**Capt. Ken Johnson**

**Capt. Claude Williams**

**Capt. Edith Haynes**

**Cmdr. Emmanuel Jenkins**

**Lt. Leonard Proctor**

**CWO Arthur F. Green**

**CWO James Harris**

