

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS



VADM LEE GUNN, USN (RET)

Vice Admiral Gunn was an extraordinary and inspirational leader whose influence shaped the success of the Surface Navy Association throughout its history. His distinguished career reflects unmatched dedication and versatility. From his exceptional service in Forces Afloat—where he commanded Cruiser-Destroyer units—to his mastery of Manpower, Personnel, Training, and Education across nearly every paygrade, his contributions have been profound.

He led the Surface Warfare Assignments Branch (PERS-41) and took on the demanding responsibilities of Officer and Enlisted Community Management, guiding the Bureau of Naval Personnel through critical functions such as selection boards, distribution, and placement. His leadership was pivotal during the complex relocation of these operations from Washington, D.C., to Millington, Tennessee.

A man of integrity, Vice Admiral Gunn served as the Navy's Inspector General, ensuring compliance, transparency, and fairness across all programs and policies. As a Flag Officer, he commanded an Expeditionary Strike Group, bringing together his Cruiser-Destroyer expertise with Amphibious Warfare experience. Truly, there is nothing Vice Admiral Gunn did not accomplish during his active service.

From 2001 to 2006, he served as President of the Surface Navy Association, and even after his tenure, he continued to strengthen the Association as a member of the Executive Committee and as Chair of the Scholarship Committee for 12 years. For many years, he led the Commentators' Panel at the close of the National Symposium, framing critical issues and guiding meaningful discussion.



CAPT NED LUNDQUIST, USN (RET)

Captain Ned Lundquist is renowned across the Surface Navy for his exceptional contributions as a writer and communicator, with over 500 published articles. For nearly 20 years, he has been the driving force behind SNA's Surface SITREP, informing and inspiring generations of Surface Warriors.

As a dedicated volunteer, Captain Lundquist has reported on SNA Annual and Waterfront Symposiums, coordinated two Communicators Forums in Washington, D.C., and organized Maritime Security Conferences at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. He managed media coverage for major events and prepared official releases for leadership changes and Old Salt and Old Tar awards. During his travels, Ned served as SNA's ambassador of goodwill—visiting shipyards and foreign ports, interviewing partner nations, and sharing sea stories with Sailors and families worldwide.

As Vice President of the SNA Greater Washington Chapter, he led initiatives supporting wounded warriors, including providing DVDs for patients at Bethesda and securing a wheelchair-accessible van for Operation Second Chance. He documented prestigious events such as George Sirian Award presentations aboard USS Constitution and Freedom of the Seas Gala aboard USS Iowa.

From his distinguished service as a Surface Warfare Officer and Public Affairs Officer to decades of unwavering support for SNA and the Surface Warfare community, Captain Ned Lundquist exemplifies commitment and excellence.

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FLTCM JOANN ORTLOFF, USN (RET)

Fleet Master Chief JoAnn Ortloff is a true trailblazer, breaking barriers for women in Forces Afloat assignments and excelling in some of the Navy's most demanding roles. She led aviation control teams with precision and safety, managed complex Air Tasking Orders, and later served as Command Master Chief aboard a Guided Missile Destroyer, at Naval Hospital Guam, U.S. Third Fleet, and Naval Forces Europe. From 2012 to 2015, she made history as the first woman Fleet Master Chief for Commander, Europe and Africa—and at that time, the Navy's senior enlisted woman. Her career reflects exceptional leadership, operational expertise, and a lasting impact on the enlisted force.

Upon retirement, Fleet Master Chief Ortloff continued her service through the Surface Navy Association. As West Coast Vice President, she was the visionary behind the Continuing the Conversation series—a dynamic forum fostering dialogue among diverse stakeholders. Through virtual and in-person events, she facilitated interviews and moderated discussions that bridged gaps between enlisted personnel and officers, expanded outreach, and strengthened connections across the Surface Navy community. A passionate advocate for collaboration, JoAnn remains a frequent speaker at symposiums and Navy events, championing unity and engagement within the fleet.