**LIEUTENANT FRANK H. NEWCOMB, USCG (RET)**  
1873-1910  

Congressional Medal for Bravery and Heroism During the Spanish American War  

Lieutenant Frank Newcomb, the commanding officer of the revenue cutter Hudson, distinguished himself and his ship at the battle in Cardenas, Cuba, during the Spanish American War. Newcomb and his crew rescued the disabled Navy torpedo boat USS Winslow while under heavy fire. President William McKinley noted in his request to Congress to recognize the gallantry of Newcomb and his crew with a special medal. The President noted that "In the face of a most galling fire from the enemy's guns, the revenue cutter Hudson, commanded by First Lieutenant Frank H. Newcomb, United States Revenue Cutter Service, rescued the disabled Winslow, her wounded commander and remaining crew. The commander of the Hudson kept his vessel in the very hottest fire of the action, although in constant danger of going aground on account of the shallow water, until he finally got a line fast to the Winslow and towed that vessel out of range of the enemy's guns, a deed of special gallantry." Congress awarded Newcomb a gold Congressional medal, the officers of Hudson received silver medals, and the crew received bronze medals for their heroism. These were the only specially struck medals awarded for bravery during the war. The U.S. Navy destroyer USS Newcomb (DD 586) was named in his honor.

**VICE ADMIRAL JOHN NYQUIST, USN (RET)**  
1955-1991  

Lifetime Achievement as a Leader in the Surface Warfare Community  

A U.S. Naval Academy graduate, John Nyquist led an esteemed career as a surface warfare officer. He served aboard four destroyers and a mine sweeper before taking command of USS Semmes (DDG 18). Additionally, he served on the Staff of COMASWFORPAC in Pearl Harbor. During the Vietnam conflict he made combat deployments in 1965 and 1970 and served for one year as Navy Liaison Officer/psychological warfare advisor in the Mekong Delta. As a Captain, he commanded Destroyer Squadron 36 and Destroyer Squadron 20 (additional duty for several months), and as a flag officer, commanded Cruiser Destroyer Group Five. His Pentagon tours included 11 years in the Surface Warfare Directorate (OP-03), including the position of Assistant Chief of Naval Operations (Surface Warfare) (OP-03). He continued moving the surface navy forward as a driving force in the Ticonderoga class cruiser program and the early planning, development and marshaling support of the Arleigh Burke class destroyer program. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal and the Legion of Merit (four awards). After his retirement in 1991, Admiral Nyquist served for 20 years as the Chairman of the Board of the San Diego Chapter of the SNA.

**CHIEF MARITIME ENFORCEMENT SPECIALIST JOSEPH T. RUGGIERO, USCG**  
2000-  

_Heroic Rescue of Six Crewman While on Patrol in the Persian Gulf_  

Boatswain's Mate Third Class Joseph Ruggiero found himself in a desperate and tragic situation when he was deployed in the Persian Gulf on the USS Firebolt, a coastal Navy patrol craft, on April 24, 2004. As a member of TACLET’s Law Enforcement Detachment Team 403, he was assigned to establish and maintain a security zone around the Khawr al Amaya Oil Terminal. When a boat was operating strangely and didn't look like a typical local boat, he and his team began to approach the vessel. Suddenly, the boat exploded throwing Ruggiero and the six other crewmen violently from their boat. BM3 Ruggiero summoned his training to heroically rescue several of the men despite his own injuries. Ruggiero was awarded the Purple Heart, the first to a Coast Guardsman since the Vietnam War, for injuries sustained while defending the terminal, and the Bronze Star with a Combat “V” for Valor for his rescue efforts.
FCCM (SW) Quibilan enlisted in the Navy in 1975 from the obscure hometown of Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii, and set the Navy on fire with his energy, initiative, industry, and relentless pursuit of personal and professional excellence. He was promoted to Chief Petty Officer in just over 8 years of service due to his skills in his rate and his magnificent leadership attributes. If you worked for Master Chief Quibilan, he would train you, elevate your performance and help you succeed in the Navy with early promotions and an ethos of high personal integrity. He was like a Pied Piper to his sailors wherever he served. FCCM Quibilan became a Master Chief in just under 15 years and became an important asset to the Navy by serving in a myriad of Command Master Chief and Force Master Chief positions, including at Recruit Training Center, Great Lakes, the Quarterdeck of the Navy, and at the United States Naval Academy which could be viewed as a Quarterdeck of Officer accessions. In every assignment Master Chief had as a Command or Force Master Chief, he was a relentless and enthusiastic supporter of the Surface Navy Association. He spearheaded numerous events to promote junior enlisted membership. He brought in important and esteemed speakers on behalf of SNA, and in general kept his sailors informed about the benefits of membership from a professional development standpoint as well as for career networking. For his efforts on behalf of our Association and for his brilliant leadership in many challenging assignments afloat and ashore, the Surface Naval Association awards Master Chief Quibilan our Special Recognition Award; our highest honor.

A renaissance man is defined as someone who has exceptionally vast talents and areas of expertise that are shared with others and are uncommon to the general public. Captain Hughes was such a renaissance man. He shared his vast knowledge, skills and abilities with the United States Navy. Entering the Navy in 1948, and graduating with the Naval Academy Class of 1952, Captain Hughes served his nation and Navy for 71 years in a host of diverse roles. As a career Surface Warfare Officer, Captain Hughes Commanded the Minesweeper Hummingbird (AMS-192) and Destroyer USS Morton (DD-948) acquiring warfighting skills and expertise in both the Korean and Vietnam wars. He was a distinguished graduate of the Naval Post Graduate school in 1964 which enhanced his value and service to our Navy culminating his career as the executive assistant to the Under Secretary of the Navy, Major Command Ashore in Pensacola, Florida and in other strategic and prestigious assignments. Upon transition from uniformed service, Captain Hughes joined the Naval Postgraduate School faculty where he was a prodigious writer of epic and highly read titles including, Fleet Tactics. Captain Hughes stewardship of the Operations Analysis department as a full professor was as a warrior, academician, and mentor. He was the thesis advisor to many, including a future Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Captain Hughes brought academic rigor, views of important issues at both the ground and 100,000-foot-levels, humor and compassion to his students. His greatest asset was his availability. He always had time to take a call, respond to a letter or email, or answer a question from the leagues of proteges from around the Fleet. Captain Hughes can never be replaced and for his legacy of extraordinary achievement on behalf of the entire Navy over the past 71 years, we award him, posthumously, the Surface Navy Association's Special Recognition Award, our highest honor.
When discussing the importance and prestigious place the Surface Navy Association holds in the cohort of Naval Warfare Professional organizations today, on the shortest possible lists of people who made this distinction possible is Vice Admiral Ron Route. A career Surface Warfare Officer, from the United States Naval Academy class of 1971, VADM Route devotedly and sacrificially supported warfighting excellence, personnel development, and mentoring, and Surface Warfare community pride in his every action. A natural leader, especially in Command at Sea, VADM Route commanded the USS Dewey (DDG-45), USS Lake Erie (CG-70) and the USS George Washington (CVN-73) Strike Group. Attesting to his personnel core values of the highest ethical standards of personal integrity, he served as the President of the Naval War College and as the Navy’s Inspector General providing a strong moral beacon to our entire Navy. VADM Route served as the President of SNA’s National Chapter for four years and presided over the greatest growth the Association had ever experienced with Chapters located worldwide with scores of enlisted members joining the ranks as members. He transitioned from SNA to become the President of the Naval Postgraduate School from 2013-2019. VADM Route’s Naval Career, and life as a servant-leader has been one of deep devotion to our Navy and to our Association. For these magnanimous accomplishments, we award him with great pride and enthusiasm the Surface Naval Association’s Special Recognition Award, our highest honor.