

The Navy League & The Report Card Announce the Fourth
Annual
Francesca Stencil Korach Battle of Midway Essay Contest

“God was taking care of America”
Admiral Chester Nimitz, Commander-in-Chief Pacific Fleet



Grand Prize to be Awarded by
General John F. Kelly, USMC
Commander, US Central Command
At the Battle of Midway Commemorative Dinner
13 June 2015

Contact: William M. Korach
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St. Augustine Council
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January 7, 2013

Last year the Navy League of Northeast Florida implemented the First Annual Francesca Stencil Korach Essay Scholarship Contest. The winner of the essay contest was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship (presented by the VCNO) at the Battle of Midway Dinner in Jacksonville, Florida.

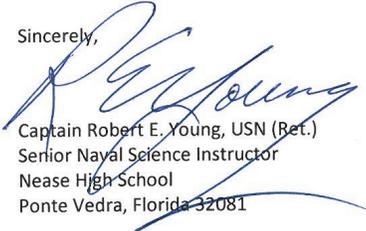
This year will mark the second annual contest and I would like to personally invite your unit to participate in this worthwhile endeavor. We all know that many of our cadets and their peers are losing the historical significance of the sacrifices of the heroes of yesteryear in preserving the freedoms we enjoy today. The essay contest, named in honor of Francesca Stencil Korach, a dedicated military spouse and supporter of America's Youth education, requires each contestant to submit a written essay about the historical significance of the Battle of the Midway, from the tactics, intelligence and calculated risks taken by the servicemen, to what it means to our nation today and to themselves.

I personally attended the formal dinner hosted by the Navy League of Northeast Florida last year and was tremendously impressed by the words of the keynote speaker and the opportunity to personally chat with the Veterans of WWII, Korea, Vietnam and the current War on Terror, the Wounded Warriors and the other attendees numbering over 800.

Please provide the information to your top-notch cadets who would be interested in this outstanding opportunity. The winner will not only be awarded the scholarship but have the opportunity to meet the Battle of Midway Veterans who will be in attendance as well as the numerous other heroes including several Medal of Honor recipients. The winning NJROTC essay will be published in the Event program and will be provided to the naval Chief of Information Office in Washington, D.C. This year the scholarship will be presented by General James Mattis, USMC, Commander Central Command.

I hope you will encourage participation in this worthwhile event and seriously consider attendance at the formal dinner. There are not many such opportunities to meet and honor such heroes of our country.

Sincerely,



Captain Robert E. Young, USN (Ret.)
Senior Naval Science Instructor
Nease High School
Ponte Vedra, Florida 32081



NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES
Battle of Midway Commemorative Committee
Mayport Florida Council
P.O. Box 634
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32004

As Chairman of the Battle of Midway Commemoration dinner event for the Northeast Florida Region, I would like to complement Mr. William Korach and his associates for an extremely successful and well-received implementation of the First Annual Francesca Stencil Korach Essay Scholarship Contest that was held during the Florida Battle of Midway event in June 2012. The overwhelming participation and scholastic quality of essays written by local NJROTC and Sea Cadets was truly outstanding. I personally received numerous positive comments from distinguished Military personnel and elected civil officials regarding the value of the contest. As a result, the Battle of Midway Committee has approved the permanent inclusion of this essay contest in future programs.

For the past 15 years, the Navy League of Northeast Florida, under the guidance and leadership of the Mayport Council, has hosted a formal dinner event to honor the brave men who fought in the Battle of Midway, which occurred in June 1942. Many historians consider this famous battle the turning point of the war in the Pacific during World War II. As young men, these Veterans heeded the call from our country to take the fight to the enemy despite overwhelming odds and risk of life. Their indomitable spirit and selfless conviction to duty was singularly responsible for the celebrated victory and set the stage for an aggressive Pacific campaign that led to the ultimate defeat of our enemy.

The Florida Battle of Midway commemoration dinner event has grown to be the largest commemoration event throughout the United States as it typically draws an attendance of over 800 attendees. Included within the attendance are numerous other Veterans of World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the current War of Terror, many Wounded Warriors, former Prisoners of War and Medal of Honor recipients, who are also honored at this event.

Numerous educators, including Mr. Korach, have recognized that America's Youth is losing the historical significance of the sacrifices of the heroes of yesteryear in preserving our freedoms that we enjoy today. With this in mind, the Northeast Florida Navy League Councils will sponsor the Second Annual Essay Scholarship contest for NJROTC and Sea Cadet units in the Florida Georgia area. The essay contest, named in honor of Francesca Stencil Korach, a dedicated military spouse and supporter of America's Youth education, requires each contestant to submit a written essay about the historical significance of the Battle of Midway, from the tactics, intelligence and calculated risks taken by the servicemen, to what it means to our nation today and to themselves.

NAVY • MARINE CORPS • COAST GUARD • MERCHANT MARINE

Award winners will be judged by a panel of professional military members and renowned historical authors. First prize winner will be awarded a \$1,000 Scholarship, second prize a \$500 scholarship and third prize a \$250 that will be personally presented by the event keynote speaker, Admiral Jonathan Greenert, USN (invited), Commander, Chief of Naval Operations.

Winners will also be given the opportunity to meet with the Battle of Midway Veterans who will be in attendance as well as the numerous other heroes including several Medal of Honor recipients. Their essays will be published in the Event program and will be provided to the Naval Chief of Information Office in Washington DC. We encourage all our area Sea Cadets and NJROTC Midshipman to participate in this wonderful opportunity to express your knowledge and understanding of this historical event and what it takes to serve this great nation.

I, and the Battle of Midway Committee, look forward to meeting you and hope you will attend this event to show our support to these truly superb heroes as we recognize their achievements.

Sincerely,

John T. Vargo

John Vargo Chairman, Midway Committee Northeast Florida Area President, U.S. Navy League.

Navy League's Mission to Educate

A key mission of the Navy League is to educate the public about the mission and contributions of the Sea Services. In particular, the Navy League is interested and active in supporting Sea Cadets and JROTC both to interest young people in the Naval service and to educate young people at the middle and high school level. For this reason, The Navy League of the United States, St. Augustine, Mayport and Jacksonville Councils and The Report Card www.thereportcard.org are sponsoring an essay contest about the Battle of Midway. The Battle of Midway is considered by many historians to be the most important Naval battle of WWII. The Battle of Midway Dinner has traditionally hosted veterans of that battle. Each year there are fewer and fewer veterans able to attend. The 2014 Dinner at Marriot Renaissance World Gold Village had over 850 active service, and Navy League guests including Battle of Midway Veterans, Medal of Honor recipients, and POW's. The Battle of Midway Dinner is the largest Navy League event in the world. The Navy League believes that the Dinner is a fitting time for the older generation to "pass the torch" of the glorious history of the Battle of Midway to the younger generation. It will be the rare privilege of the contest winners to pay tribute to the dwindling surviving veterans of the Battle of Midway.

Commentary on The Battle of Midway

Gordon Prange, in *Miracle at Midway* says:

"Less than six months after their victory at Pearl harbor, the Japanese sent an enormous, combat-seasoned fleet of eighty-eight surface warships on a dual mission to capture Midway Atoll and lure the remains of the weakened U.S. Pacific Fleet to their destruction. This was to be the opening round of an even bigger operation, one that would eventually isolate Australian and conquer Hawaii.

But things didn't go as the Japanese planned. Having broken the Japanese codes, the American military knew of those plans. A much smaller American fleet of twenty-eight ships sped past Midway and waited for the Japanese to arrive. Although the Japanese Fleet was led by Vice Admiral Nagumo, who had spearheaded the attack on Pearl Harbor, it was ultimately defeated in a Battle that became the war's turning point."

Winston Churchill, in *The Hinge of Fate*

"The last of Nagumo's four fleet carriers had been smashed, and with them were lost their highly trained air crews. These could never be replaced. So ended the battle...rightly regarded as the turning point of the war in the Pacific."

Contest Rules

All high school students anywhere in the United States and in good standing are eligible to submit essays. A grand prize of a \$1000 scholarship will be awarded to the best essay. Second and third prizes will be \$500 and \$250 respectively. The prizes will be awarded on June 13, 2015 Midway Dinner personally by General John F. Kelly, USMC US Central Command. The contest winners will have the additional privilege of having their essay printed in the banquet program and personally meeting Battle of Midway veterans, Medal of Honor recipients and other veterans.

Students will write an essay about The Battle of Midway of no less than 500 words. The Finalists, whose essays will be forwarded to the national judges, will be required to record their essay on camera and upload to their YouTube account. Winners will be asked to make public appearances time permitting, so the Navy League wants to ensure that the winners will be able to speak convincingly in public. Accordingly, finalist essays will be weighted 75% for clarity and originality, and 25% for spoken delivery. Since the essay must be original, evidence of plagiarism will disqualify the contestant. Contestants are free to choose any topic or perspective about The Battle of Midway of interest to them. Here are some examples of topics:

1. What made The Battle of Midway so important?
2. How was the inferior American force of 28 ships able to defeat the far larger Japanese force of 88 ships?
3. How did the Battle of Midway demonstrate American leadership.
4. Select a participant in the Battle of Midway who you believe best exemplifies leadership. For example you may choose Admiral Nimitz, the overall commander, CDR Joe Rochefort whose team broke the Japanese Naval code, LCDR John Waldron, who led torpedo squadron VT-6, CDR Wade McClusky who led the successful drive bombing attack against the Japanese carriers, or any other participant who you feel meets your definition of leadership.
5. What was the role of intelligence?

Contestants will attach a bibliography of literature they used to develop their essays. Historic references and quotes should be footnoted. Any credible source may be used, but a short list of reference works is attached as a starting point. The semi-final essays should be forwarded to William Korach wmkorach@gmail.com electronically in pdf. file together with a video of the contestant reading the essay not later than 5/1/15. The video may be uploaded to the contestant's You Tube account, and the link forwarded with the pdf. All essays become the property of the Navy League of the United States, and The Report Card www.thereportcard.org

These books and other material referenced here are suggested reading. Contestants may choose these but are encouraged to research the project using any credible materials. Factual statements and quotes must be footnoted.

Bibliography

1. *Decision at Sea*, Craig Symonds, Oxford University Press, 2005
2. *Joe Rochefort's War*, Elliot Carlson, Naval Institute Press, 2011
3. *Miracle at Midway*, Gordon Prange, MJF Books, 1982
4. *History of the United States Naval Operations in WWII*, Volume 4, Samuel Eliot Morison
5. *The Hinge of Fate*, Winston Churchill, Houghton, Mifflin, 1950
6. *Battle Stations Midway*, Videogame depiction
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P6QGY25Lu-E>
7. *Battle of Midway* Documentary directed by Hollywood director John Ford who was on Midway filming during the attack
<http://www.archive.org/details/BattleOfMidway>

Expenses

Prizewinners who must travel over 300 miles to accept the award will be reimbursed for travel expenses not to exceed \$500.00

Timetable for Submission of Essays

2/10 Packages sent out

4/1 Essays prescreened by CO's or classroom teachers

5/1 Essays and You Tube videos of student giving essay forwarded to national judge panel via wmkorach@gmail.com

5/15 Winners notified and arrangements to attend banquet finalized

6/13 Prizes awarded on 13 June, 2015 at the Battle of Midway Dinner Marriot Renaissance World Golf Village St. Augustine, FL

Judges

A panel of Navy veterans and Nationally Recognized historians will judge the contest. The essays will be judged on both originality and the ability of the writer to read the essay publicly. Public speaking is an important feature of the contest and winners will be encouraged to speak at events following the Battle of Midway Dinner.

Panel of Judges

Rear Admiral Joseph Callo, USNR, ret.

Joseph Callo is a *Naval History Magazine* Author of the Year. His most recent book *John Paul Jones: America's First Sea Warrior* (Naval Institute Press, 2006) is the 2006 winner of the Samuel Eliot Morison Award for excellence in naval literature. He contributed to *The Trafalgar Companion* (Osprey Publishing) and was U.S. editor/author for *Who's Who in Naval History* (Routledge). He also wrote *Nelson in the Caribbean: The Hero Emerges, 1784-1787* (Naval Institute Press), *Nelson Speaks: Admiral Lord Nelson in His Own Words* (Naval Institute Press), and *Legacy of Leadership—Lessons from Admiral Lord Nelson* (Hellgate Press). His sixth book, *The Sea Was Always There* (Fireship Press) is scheduled for publication this spring. Mr. Callo has written for a variety of magazines and newspapers. He also is a frequent public speaker and has done numerous radio and TV interviews.

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Before writing full time, Mr. Callo was a senior executive with major advertising agencies and was a freelance producer for NBC-TV and PBS. His awards include the prestigious George Foster Peabody Broadcasting Award for his work as line producer on the NBC-TV prime-time special *Tut: The Boy King* (narrated by Orson Wells) and a Telly Award for his script for *The Second Life of 20 West Ninth*, a PBS and History Channel program (narrated by William Shatner). He taught advertising and writing at St. John's University as an adjunct associate professor.

Mr. Callo was commissioned from the Yale University Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps. He served two years of sea duty in the U.S. Navy's Atlantic Amphibious Forces and was qualified as a surface warfare officer. Upon returning to civilian life, he commanded three reserve public affairs units and performed reserve duty with a variety of U.S. Navy commands, including: the Pre-Commissioning Detail of USS *Saratoga*, Sixth Fleet, Pacific Fleet, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Naval War College, Submarine Group Two, Chief of Naval Reserve, Chief of Information, the Oceanographer of the Navy and others. He retired from the Navy Reserve as a rear admiral. Mr. Callo learned to sail at age 13, and he skippers sailboats up to 50 feet in length in the Caribbean. He also crewed in the full-scale reproduction of Captain Cook's square-rigged bark *Endeavour*.

Mr. Callo lives in New York City with his wife the former Sally Chin McElwreath, who is a retired Navy Reserve captain and most recently was a senior vice president with a major utility/energy company.

Richard Latture

Richard Latture is Editor-in-Chief of Naval History, a magazine well-regarded by both academic historians and history enthusiasts – and published bi-monthly by the U. S. Naval Institute.

Richard joined the Institute staff in his present post during 2005.

Interested in history very early in life, Richard majored in the subject as an undergraduate at Washington and Lee University, then went on to earn a Master of Arts degree in history at the University of Virginia.

Upon completion of graduate studies, he joined the staff of the national newspaper USA Today – working for 12 years as a researcher, reporter, and editor.

Before assuming his present post, Richard spent seven years editing MHQ: The Quarterly Journal of Military History, America's Civil War and a number of other periodicals published by Primedia History Group.

Mary Laney

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Mary is an award winning columnist, television and radio news anchor, reporter, commentator. She is a nationally recognized TV producer, writer, program host and editorialist and the recipient of over fifty local and national television awards for excellence in investigative reporting, commentaries, editorials and newscast production.

After graduating from the University of Wisconsin/Madison, Mary began her career in Chicago at WFLD-TV. From there, she went to cable television and then she joined WBBM Newsradio 78 as a writer, producer and anchor of Week in Review. Mary went to WBBM-TV as a writer and then became a news reporter. Her talents were duly noted and she was offered positions in New York, Washington and Paris. Wanting to raise her children, Tom and Chris, in Chicago, Mary instead decided to accept the post of Editorial Director at WMAQ-TV before becoming news anchor and commentator for the station.

While she was at WMAQ, Mayor Richard M. Daley asked Mary to become Chicago's Tourism Director. During Mary's tenure, Chicago went from 40th place to one of the top ten world destinations to visit. Upon reaching her goals in this endeavor, Mary went to CNN as Midwest correspondent and to WMAQ Radio as a talk show host. At this time, Mary also launched Mary Laney, Inc., a production company that specializes in video and audio production, scripts, concepts, and crisis management and training.

Mary is a columnist on the editorial page of the Chicago Sun-Times, has written a novel, has sold the option on two movie scripts, and is currently collaborating on a script in Hollywood. She has received more than 100 national, regional and local awards including Emmys, UPI and AP awards. She also has been honored by American Women in Radio and Television, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, the Salvation Army, Chicago Firefighters and the Newspaper Veterans Association. She has been cited for excellence by the U.S. Senate, U.S. House, Illinois General Assembly, Chicago City Council and Chicago Public Schools. And she's the first woman honored by the Newspaper Veterans with the "Classy Guy Award".

Mary does charity work for Haymarket House, Maryville City of Hope and Prentice Hospital. She is also on the Northwestern Women's Board, the International Visitors Board and the Board of Governors of the Chicago/Midwest Chapter of NATAS. She has many special interests including government, politics and golf

Colonel Will Merrill, USA, ret.

Will Merrill, a native of Ashland, Wisconsin, graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point with the Class of 1958. His sons Bill and Michael are also West Point graduates. Son Bill, an Army Colonel, has completed two tours of duty in Iraq and extensive duty in other Mid-East countries. His granddaughter, Jeanell, is a Army Captain who has also served in Iraq. He is married to the former Barbara Michel, of Brooklyn, New York. His daughters Mary Merrill Quinn and Susan Tsantes, live in Minneapolis and Framingham, MA. His son, Michael, lives in Jacksonville and is the founder of Smartphones Technologies.

After graduation from West Point, he served with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, NC from 1959 to 1961, after which he commanded a Hawk air-defense missile battery at Fort Bliss, TX and Bad Aibling, Germany from 1961-64. In 1966-67, he was an advisor to a Vietnamese Army 155 mm Artillery Battalion in Pleiku, Vietnam.

During 1969-70, he served as Operations Officer for the 2nd Infantry Division on the Demilitarized Zone in the Republic of Korea during a period of intense crisis. From 1974-75 he was Battalion Commander of the 1/7th Air Defense Artillery at Fort Bliss, TX. From 1983-1989 he was the NATO Liaison Officer to Greece, stationed at the Greek Pentagon in Athens, during which time he narrowly escaped two assassination plots. He retired from the U.S. Army with the rank of Colonel in 1989.

He is a graduate of the Artillery Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Army Ranger Course, the Army Airborne Course, the Armed Forces Staff College and the DOD Language School courses in Spanish and Greek. He has also earned a Master's Degree in Business from Webster College.

After completing his military service he became Vice President of a nationwide Home Inspection Service and later Vice President of a Wireless Communications Company.

His personal decorations include the Department of Defense Superior Service Award, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Four Meritorious Service Medals, Army Commendation Medal and Vietnamese Honor Medal.

Col. Merrill had written a book, *9/11 Ordinary People: Extraordinary Heroes*, based on interviews with sixty firefighters, police officers and civilians in New York City on 9/11.

Will Fitzhugh

Will Fitzhugh is a graduate of Harvard College and a former high school history teacher. In 1987 he founded *The Concord Review*, which has now published 1,044 history research papers (average 6,000 words) by high school students from 46 states and 38 other countries in 95 issues.

William M. Korach

William Korach is publisher of The Report Card www.thereportcard.com, a magazine advocating teaching America's Heritage of freedom in our public schools. Korach worked at New York advertising agencies Doyle Dane and Bernbach, and Ted Bates. He later became a Senior VP of marketing with Citibank, Korach was an early developer of on-line banking and has taught and written about marketing technology through out his career in financial services. Korach is a former Commander in the United States Naval Reserve having served aboard the *USS John R. Pierce*, *USS Saipan*, *USS Germantown* and the *USS Dahlgren*. Korach was on active duty from 1966-69 and recalled to active duty for *Operation Desert Storm*. In 2010 Korach was president of the Navy League of

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St. Augustine that was selected for the Outstanding Council award.

Korach recently completed a history textbook *Rock of the Republic*, TeachingPoint, Jacksonville, because of his concern that America's great heritage is no longer being taught in America's schools. Korach graduated from the University of Chicago Laboratory School and received his BA in history from the University of Wisconsin.

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