

## Note from the Chapter President



It has certainly been a busy spring. On April 24th, the NDIA Delaware Valley Chapter recognized some of the area's future military leaders at our annual ROTC/NROTC scholarship luncheon at the Union League in central Philadelphia. This event, held once again under the able leadership of RADM (ret) Tom Seigenthaler of member company NDI Engineering, is one of the highlights of the board's annual calendar, and you can read more about it in this newsletter. Congratulations to all of our honorees and unit commanders, and thank you for your service.

Later that evening, I boarded an airplane for a week of meetings in the Middle East, and that confluence of events got me thinking about the challenges and opportunities that will be facing our honorees as they get their commissions and embark on their military careers.

Only a few years ago, freshly minted soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines could be fairly confident that their careers would soon take them to the sands, waters and skies of the Middle East. Today, that's not so clear. The troops came home from Iraq at the end of 2011, and the President has just announced a plan to withdraw the last American troops from Afghanistan by the end of 2016. That's not to say that the region is now an oasis of stability ... far from it. But it does suggest a diminished national appetite for large-scale military operations, and remind us that there are hot spots all over the world ... the western Pacific, the Korean peninsula, sub-Saharan Africa, Ukraine ... that could reach out and demand our attention and resources at any time.

It's not at all clear whether our new O-1s and E-1s are now facing years of service as a garrison force, or if the optempo will stay high as we re-balance to the Pacific region while staying engaged in the Middle East and dealing with emergent crises elsewhere. Probably a bit of both. What is clear is that all of us in the government-industry partnership need to do all we can to educate, train, equip, and sustain those who could be called upon to go in harm's way.

Of course, there are many ways to serve, and keeping our nation on the forefront of technology is also vital to national security. In that spirit, your Delaware Valley Chapter was proud to partially sponsor the Greater Philadelphia SeaPerch Challenge in late April (please see <http://www.phillyseaperch.org/our-sponsors.html>), where a number of our board members participated as judges in a spirited competition that helps introduce pre-college students to underwater robotics.

So even if it's a drop in the proverbial bucket, I like to think that our efforts in the Delaware Valley chapter through such activities as our scholarship program and STEM sponsorships make a measurable contribution to our nation's readiness for an uncertain future.

Of course, there's no such thing as a free lunch ... and here comes the "ask". Our upcoming golf outing, set for Monday August 4th at Tavistock Country Club in Haddonfield NJ, is the chapter's major fundraising event for the year, and I respectfully encourage all of our readers to review the announcement in this newsletter and perhaps sign up for a sponsorship or a foursome. A splendid time is had by all, and it is through events such as this that we are able to continue our service to the community.

As I've said before, many thanks for your support to your regional NDIA chapter. Have a great summer, and please keep an eye on our web site, [www.ndia-dvc.org](http://www.ndia-dvc.org), for news on chapter activities and upcoming events.

**Juan Peñalver** - Lockheed Martin MST

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## Sam Thevanayagam - President and Chief Executive Officer Parts Life, Inc.

Sam Thevanayagam is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Parts Life, Inc. From the time he was a youth, he displayed an entrepreneurial spirit. Having worked many years in the automotive aftermarket for other companies, reaching as high a position as VP, Sam saw the opportunity to start his own business. He quickly became the entrepreneur he was always meant to be. Realizing his vision, Sam started Parts Life, Inc. in 2007. As Sam would put it, "Parts Life, Inc. is an innovative company focused on providing customized parts to support the Defense, Aerospace, Heavy Duty, and Automotive industries. Known for agility, efficiency and affordability, Parts Life, Inc. provides life cycle sustainment and service life extension to support mission-critical systems. As your aging systems may require, we provide obsolete part resolution to extend the life of your expensive assets. Our company has earned a reputation of excellence and achievement in quality and performance by working closely with its customers to support individual needs."

Sam completed his Bachelor of Science Degree in Marketing at Oral Roberts University (1988), Certification in Production & Inventory Management (CPIM) through American Production & Inventory Control Society (1993), Certification in Purchasing & Supply Management (CPM) through National Association of Purchasing Management (1999), Certification in Supplier Development & Strategic Sourcing from Caltech (1998), Certification in Seal Engineering (CSC) through Hydraulic Packing & Seal School (2002), and SBA E200 where he gave the valedictory speech at his graduation ceremony in 2008. Additionally, Sam has taken various continuing education



courses such as Participant in the Clinton Foundation & Inc Magazine's Entrepreneurial Mentoring Program (2010), SBA Emerging 200 Executive Training Program (2008), Building Effective Government Costs Proposals & Establishing Basic Indirect Rates- RGFCC (2007), Turbo Charged Marketing Techniques- RGFCC (2007), Breaching the Procurement Maze – RGFCC (2007), Situational Leadership – Ken Blanchard Organization, Quality College- Phillip Crosby Organization, STOP Safety Training by DuPont, Strategic Management- Dr. Henry Migliore, Reengineering the Supply Chain- PRTM, Lean Principals

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## Save the Date

*NDIA Golf Outing, August 4, 2014  
Tavistock Country Club • Haddonfield, NJ*

Clearly the best and most sought after golf outing in the Philadelphia area! Affordable golf that includes; lunch, unlimited warm-up, 18 holes of spectacular golf, cocktail reception, networking dinner with open bar and prizes too. Last year we sold out, so sign-up early and often.

Proceeds help Philadelphia area STEM initiatives and support ROTC student's education expenses. Registration to open in January 2014 at [www.ndia-dvc.org](http://www.ndia-dvc.org) under the EVENTS tab.



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## **Sam Thevanayagam - President and Chief Executive Officer Parts Life, Inc.**

& Continuous Improvement- Brian Maskell, Toyota Production System, and Servant Leadership.

Thevanayagam's staff, family, and neighbors know him to be one who takes seriously his faith in God, and a responsibility to give back to his community. In addition to supporting various local causes and organizations, he is actively involved in a number of national associations and local chambers. Most recently, Sam was appointed to the Board of Directors of the National Defense Industry Association, Delaware Valley Chapter, and serves on the Military Relations Council for Burlington County Chamber of Commerce.

Sam's commitment to our warfighter goes beyond the mission of Parts Life. Thevanayagam is most proud of the commitment he has made to bring manufacturing back to the United States. His company is currently spearheading a Domestic Manufacturing Initiative, which will allow them to work with the military on repurposing assets for new challenges and conflicts. The remanufacturing facility will be located in New Jersey and will offer quality training and jobs to returning veterans and members of the community.

Parts Life, Inc. provides world class cutting edge solutions in re-manufacturing and reverse logistics. As the expert in obsolescence issues, Sam developed and trademarked the value proposition R.O.P.E. ® (Rapid Obsolescence Planning and Execution). He has 20 years of experience in executive leadership with the task of implementation of quality assurance programs, operations management, supplier development, strategic direction for sourcing & commodity rationalization, and managing suppliers and subcontractors.

Most recently, in October of 2012, PARTS LIFE, INC. was awarded 7th place in the Philadelphia 100, which is organized to showcase the 100 fastest growing companies in the Greater Philadelphia region based on certified three year revenue growth. This is in addition to the Smart CEO award that Sam won earlier this year.

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## **Joseph P. Welsh Appointed Second President for NDIA**

The Delaware Valley Chapter of NDIA is pleased to announce the appointment of Joseph P. Welsh, JD, MBA, RRT to the position of Second President. Mr. Welsh has been the Vice President of our Chapter since 2013. An active board member for the past five years, Mr. Welsh has chaired the STEM committee and currently serves on the committee with our partner, Drexel University, for the development of the Cybersecurity Program. He has also supported the Veterans Initiative for NDIA.

Mr. Welsh has had an extensive career in support of the international workforce, economic development, healthcare and biotechnology. He has significantly contributed to research and analysis, program development and training, fundraising, operations, and marketing in this arena. He has co-authored a number of studies and articles in his field of expertise. Mr. Welsh has served as a consultant, Executive Director, President and General Counsel, and CEO over the course of his career.

In the area of Education, Mr. Welsh has had teaching appointments at many prestigious universities and institutions. Most recently, he was on the adjunct faculty for three schools at Drexel University; The Goodwin College of Professional Studies, Biomedical Engineering and Education. Mr. Welsh is an active member of the American Bar Association's Health Law Committee and the Health Privacy and Security Working Group.

Currently, Mr. Welsh is the President and General Counsel for The Center for Healthcare Information Research and Policy, developing programs, research, standards, educational tools and products to facilitate the integration of health policy and health technology policy in the US and Global healthcare delivery system.

## USS SOMERSET – “Never Forget!” By: Jim Donahue

The membership of the Delaware Valley Chapter of NDIA proudly supported the Commissioning of USS SOMERSET (LPD-25) on Saturday, March 1, 2014, at Penn's Landing in Philadelphia. By virtue of a donation authorized by the Chapter's Board of Directors, both the individual and corporate members of the chapter became “Honorary Plank Holders” which is a distinction realized by very few throughout the history of the US Navy. The Chapter's status as an Honorary Plank Holder is memorialized on a plaque hanging in Somerset's Ward Room. Below are several reports and photos resulting from the Chapter's involvement with Somerset's commissioning.

On September 11th, 2001 United Airlines Flight 93 had departed Newark, NJ, outbound for San Francisco when the plane was taken over by four terrorists. The passengers onboard learned of two other hijacked flights that had just been deliberately crashed into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in Manhattan. As Flight 93 banked left over the fields of central Pennsylvania, the passengers embarked on a heroic plan, initiated with the battle cry of, “Let's Roll!”. The plane was forced down in Shanksville, Somerset County, PA, preventing the terrorists from carrying out their original plan of crashing the aircraft into the US Capitol in Washington.

During the Flight 93 recovery efforts in Shanksville, the workers mounted an American flag in a drag bucket of an old, abandoned strip mine that was hanging over the crash site. The twenty-two ton steel bucket has been re-forged into the bow of LPD-25, USS SOMERSET.



*Flight 93 Memorial - Shanksville, Somerset County, Pennsylvania*

On February 28, 2014, USS Somerset pulled into Philadelphia, docking at Penn's Landing in preparation for her commissioning on March 1. On the following Tuesday, Bob Coates, of L-3/SPD Electrical Systems, and the Immediate Past President of the Delaware Valley Chapter, led a group of SPDES employees (pictured above and again below) who journeyed to the ship for a tour.

Feeling that they were on hallowed ground, yet afloat, they were able to see the well deck where the LCAC's, and in



*USS SOMERSET (LPD-25)*

the future, the L-3-manufactured Ship to Shore Connectors (SSC), are moved in and out of the stern sea gate, carrying the Marines and their vehicles including tanks and armored personnel carriers to shore during amphibious operations. A photo from the water of the open sea gate is below.

The SPDES group also visited the flight deck where, a few days later, a Boeing Osprey MV-22 and an AH-1 Cobra would fly in to be on board for the commissioning ceremony. Their tour also included visits to the berthing areas, the bridge, and the CIC. Beyond the tour of Somerset, the SPDES group had an opportunity to meet and speak with members of Somerset's crew, which gave them a new found appreciation of whom they ultimately work for - the Sailors and Marines that go in harm's way to preserve our freedom.



The Delaware Valley Chapter was honored to have two of its board members, Jim Donahue and Paul Trenholm, serve as members of the USS Somerset Commissioning Committee. On Friday, February 21, Jim Donahue was among six members of the Commissioning Committee who boarded Somerset in the Delaware Bay to come up river with her to her berth at Penn's Landing. The group

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## NDIA Annual ROTC Awards Luncheon

Thursday, 24 April, the Delaware Valley Chapter Board members hosted the annual ROTC Awards Luncheon in the Lincoln Memorial Library of The Philadelphia Union League.

This year 12 recipients from ROTC/NROTC units from colleges and universities located in the Delaware Valley were represented. The luncheon is an opportunity for the members of the board to meet future military service leaders and to have these young men and women and their unit commanders meet leaders of the Defense Industrial companies that are located in the area.

This year's luncheon was multi-purpose as the Sidney Ross Award for technical, academic and personal accomplishment was awarded to a selected ROTC/NROTC honoree. Those receiving awards were:

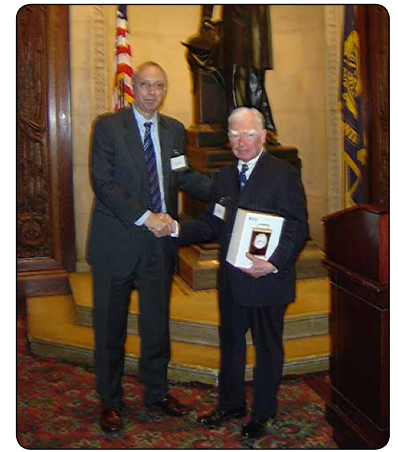


*ROTC/NROTC Delaware Valley Recipients*

Shawn Baron, Army ROTC, Rutgers University  
Christopher Dykes, Army ROTC, The College of New Jersey  
Graham Foresman, Army ROTC, University of Delaware  
Zachary Geesey, Army ROTC, Drexel University  
Jeff Holinaty, Army ROTC, Lehigh University  
Brian Johnston, Air Force ROTC, University of Delaware  
Ernest Jordan, Air Force ROTC, Drexel University  
Jason Levine, Navy ROTC, University of Penn  
Brian Moscioni, Navy ROTC, Villanova University  
Virginia Orlowski, Army ROTC, Widener University  
Robyn Reichart, Army ROTC, Temple University  
Derrick Yates, Army ROTC, VFMAC



*NDIA Board Member Tom Seigenthaler and Cadet Zachary Geesey, recipient of the Sidney Ross Award*



*Cadet Shawn Baron; Guest Speaker Colonel James A. Beres, USAF (Ret.); and Board Member Tom Seigenthaler*

In addition, the board was honored to have as a distinguished guest, Ms. Patricia Woody, the Technical Director of the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Philadelphia. Ms. Woody directs the efforts of over 2,000 engineers and technicians that support the operation and maintenance of the U.S. Navy fleet.

Our guest speaker this year was Colonel James A. Beres, USAF (Ret). Jim provided enlightening guidance and comments for all present. Jim has served in significant assignments in the Air Force Space Program and as Director of the Air Force Phillips laboratories.

In closing our luncheon, Board President, Juan Penalver, presented NDIA memorabilia to Dr. John Mulhern, Director of the University of Pennsylvania Fels Center of Government. John, a retired Captain, USN, has served as a leader of the Philadelphia Naval and Business Community for over 40 years.



*Cadet Shawn Baron; Guest Speaker Colonel James A. Beres, USAF (Ret.); and Board Member Tom Seigenthaler*

## Dr. John Mulhern: First NDIA Honorary Director for Life

Dr. John Mulhern joined the Delaware Valley Chapter of NDIA (previously the ADPA) in 1981, shortly after publishing a study of the defense industry impact on Philadelphia's economy for the Business Review, while working for the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. In the years following Dr. Mulhern's invitation to join ADPA, he has provided invaluable service as a board member in various chapter offices and committees, including President.

After his departure from the Federal Reserve, Dr. Mulhern started his own consulting firm in 1984, Mulhern Associates, providing services to the Office of Naval Research and other government and defense industry firms until 2007. Throughout his years at the Federal Reserve and in private consulting, Dr. Mulhern was involved in the closure of the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard and its transformation to a smaller, more advanced private shipyard on the site.

Dr. Mulhern has had many academic accomplishments in his lifetime. From 1985 to 1990, he served as Associate Professor of Public Administration at Penn State, including direct participation in the planning and development of the predecessor program for the current AACSB-accredited MBA. In 1996, Dr. Mulhern was invited to head the Fels Institute of

Government at the prestigious University of Pennsylvania. His tenure at Penn included his discovery of Defense Investment Cycles, leading to conferences, publications and further research on the subject.

Dr. Mulhern's other distinguished accomplishments include 31 years in the U.S. Navy, retiring in 1992 as a Captain in the Navy Supply Corps. His Naval career included serving aboard four ships and extensive work in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations and the Naval Supply Systems Command. Over the course of his career, Dr. Mulhern's philanthropy and pro bono efforts encompassed fundraising for the commissioning of the USS THOMAS S. GATES, serving as treasurer of the USS PENNSYLVANIA commissioning, and assisting in the design of wardroom silver services for both ships. He also chaired the Navy Recruiting District Assistance Council and cofounded and chaired the Philadelphia Navy Day Regatta, a fixture today in East Coast rowing.

Today, Dr. John Mulhern works on long term research projects, teaches a full schedule of courses at Penn and contributes to NDIA. His role as Honorary Director for Life with NDIA will continue his legacy for many years to come.

## USS SOMERSET – “Never Forget!” By: Jim Donahue (cont...)

departed from Marcus Hook on a ship tender, accompanied by a PA State Police Marine Unit boat for security reasons. In boarding Somerset, they approached her stern and boarded on the lowered sea gate. In the photo below, you can easily see the Landing Craft Air Cushioned (LCAC) positioned on the sea deck.

On Saturday, March 1, the ship was commissioned and the crew was called to “Bring My Ship to Life” by her sponsor Mary Jo Meyers, wife of General Richard B. Meyers, USAF (Ret.). Distinguished speakers and guests included Senator Pat Toomey, Congressmen Pat Meehan, Bill Shuster, and Mike Fitzpatrick. US Navy representatives including Admiral Jonathan Greenert, Chief of Naval Operations; General James Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps; Vice Admiral William H. Hilarides, Commander NAVSEA; representatives from Somerset County, PA, and the Flight 93 Association. An audience of more than 6,000 people attended the Commissioning and more than 24,000 people took tours of Somerset after the Commissioning on Saturday and all day on Sunday. Somerset departed Philadelphia on March 4th, bound for her home port of San Diego, CA.

The members of the Delaware Valley Chapter will have fond memories of their association with USS SOMERSET and all wish only “Fair Winds and Following Seas” to the crew of LPD-25.

## From the Editor

What do you think of this newsletter? How can it be improved? Do you want your company profiled in a future issue? Would you like to contribute a feature article in a future issue?

Send me your feedback and suggestions so that we can improve this publication with each issue.

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**From the Editor**

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Visit link to see a list of our Chapter  
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