



# *Presidential Families of America*

**PFA Winter Gazette 2018**



**Seventeenth Annual Assembly  
presents Marc Leepson, Author**

## **Saving Monticello**

*The Levy Family's Epic Quest to Rescue the House that Jefferson Built*

# *Presidential Families of America*

## **2016-2019 OFFICERS**

President General – Robin R. Towns  
1 VP General - Dianne A. Robinson  
2 VP General - Michael P. Schenk  
Secretary General - Camille R. Lowery  
Treasurer General – Michael S. Swisher  
Registrar General – David C. Smith  
Chaplain General – Dr. Jack J. Early

## **APPOINTMENTS**

Auditor: John Hallberg Jones  
Historian: Carla W. Odom  
Insignia: Michael P. Schenk  
Parliamentarian: J. Michael Phelps  
Regalia: Robin R. Towns  
Webmaster: John Lauman; Barry C. Howard, advisor  
Editor, *The Register*: Carla W. Odom  
Editor, *PFA Gazette*: Robin R. Towns

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# President General's Message

It is my great honor to serve as President General of *Presidential Families of America*. I welcome your support and capable assistance during our three year term together. We will endeavor to continue building upon the stunning success established by our predecessors.

I sincerely hope that you are enjoying the excellent *Presidential Families of America* web site, which has been graciously reestablished and maintained by our own member **John Lauman**, our new webmaster. John has done a most wonderful job with our new user-friendly website, generously donating his time and server. Many thanks are in order for John!

Please view the web site at:  
[www.presidentialfamilies.org](http://www.presidentialfamilies.org).

Remember to click on "**Enter here**" to use site.

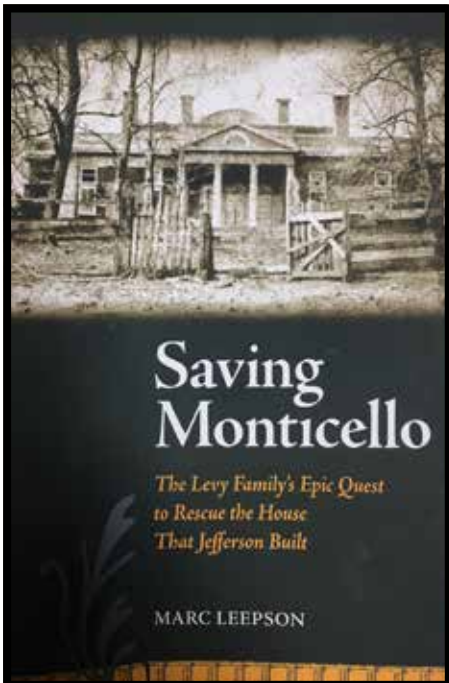
Please note that our **Seventeenth Annual Meeting** will be held on **Friday morning, April 13, 2018** at *The Army and Navy Club*, on Farragut Square.

Our scholarly speaker, author **Marc Leepson**, will present his excellent publication "**Saving Monticello ~ The Levy Family's Epic Quest to Rescue the House that Jefferson Built.**" We are looking forward to Marc's compelling presentation. (See cover and page 5)

*Presidential Families of America* has an efficient and hardworking Board to serve the membership. It is our hope that working together with you, the members, we will continue to advance the charitable, educational, and literary purposes of our society.

Most sincerely,  
*Robin R. Towns*

President General 2016-2019



# Presidential Families of America

## NEW MEMBERS

- 337 – L **Steinberg, Steven Harry**  
President – Zachary Taylor, Ancestor – Francis Thornton
- 338 – A **Mercado, Christopher Aiden**  
President – James Madison, Ancestor – Francis Thornton
- 339 – A **Littlefield, Donald Bruce**  
President – John Calvin Coolidge, Jr., Ancestor–Edmund Littlefield
- 340 – L **Hunnewell, Sumner Gary**  
President – Zachary Taylor, Ancestor – William Brewster
- 341 – A **Dunham, Richard Kenneth**  
President – John Adams, Ancestor – William Mullins
- 342 – L **Robertson, Priscilla Ann Cruse (Mrs. Stuart A.)**  
President - Harry S. Truman, Ancestor - John Holmes
- 343 - L **Walker, Janet Ann Butler (Mrs. William O.)**  
President - James Earl Carter, Jr., Ancestor - Jonathan Dawson

## SUPPLEMENTALS

- 338 – A **Mercado, Christopher Aiden**  
A. President - William Howard Taft, Ancestor – Zachariah Goodale  
B. President – Zachary Taylor, Ancestor – Francis Thornton
- 264 – L **Grinnell, David Lawrence**  
V. President - Stephen Grover Cleveland, Ancestor: John Porter
- 338 – L **Littlefield, Donald Bruce**  
A. President - Millard Fillmore, Ancestor: Edmund Littlefield
- 309 – A **Lauman, John Edward**  
A. President: Richard Milhous Nixon, Ancestor: Nicholas Dillon
- 261 – A **di Campollattaro, Carol Capomazza**  
A. President - Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Ancestor: Isaac Allerton
- 314 – A **Arendt, Shirley Jean Kloberdanz**  
A. President - George Walker Bush, Ancestor: Jonathan Fairbanks  
B. President - James Abram Garfield, Ancestor: John Rockwood  
C. President - William Howard Taft, Ancestor: Zachariah Goodale  
D. President - Rutherford B. Hayes, Ancestor: John Root

## Honorary Presidents General

- |           |                          |           |                         |
|-----------|--------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| 1995-1997 | Lawrence Kent, Ph.D.     | 2007-2010 | J. Michael Phelps, Esq. |
| 2004-2007 | Barry Christopher Howard | 2010-2013 | Frank Lee Perryman      |
|           | 2013-2016                |           | Carla Whitehurst Odom   |

In 2017, the President General announced the formation of the *PFA President General's Advisory Council*, made up of our Founder & Honorary Presidents General. The shared wisdom, expertise, and experience of this body provides great benefit for the President General, and indeed, the entire society.



## Presidential Families of America

The President General and Officers  
cordially invite you to the Seventeenth Annual Assembly

Friday, April 13, 2018  
Eight o'clock in the morning

John Paul Jones Room  
The Army and Navy Club  
*on Farragut Square*  
901 Seventeenth Street, NW  
Washington, DC

Speaker: **Marc Leepson**, Author  
presenting

### *Saving Monticello*

*The Levy Family's Epic Quest to Rescue the House that Jefferson Built*

Rsvp Reservations accepted until April 3, 2018

*Menu: Army Navy Country Breakfast*



## Presidential Families of America

Member \_\_\_\_\_

Guest \_\_\_\_\_

**check for \$27.00 per person**

**to: Mr. Michael S. Swisher**  
**Treasurer General, PFA**  
**14511 Olinda Boulevard North**  
**Stillwater, MN 55082-1147**



# Minutes of Sixteenth Annual Assembly

Friday, April 14, 2017 ~ Washington, DC

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly of the Presidential Families of America was held Friday, April 14, 2017, in the John Paul Jones Room of the Army and Navy Club at 8:00 am. The meeting was called to order at 8:13 am by President General Robin R. Towns. Chaplain General Dr. Jack Jones Early gave the Invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by First Vice President General Dianne Alley Robinson. Mrs. Towns welcomed everyone to the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly.

President General Mrs. Towns introduced the Officers: First Vice President General, Dianne Alley Robinson; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President General, Michael Perry Schenk; Secretary General, Camille Redfern Lowery; Treasurer General, Michael Scott Swisher; and Registrar General, David Carline Smith. Mrs. Towns introduced Appointed Officers: Historian, Carla Whitehurst Odom; and Parliamentarian J. Michael Phelps, Esq.

Mrs. Towns reminded members of the formation of the President General's Advisory Council made up of our Founder and Honorary Presidents General as presented in the Winter 2017 issue of *The Gazette*. Honorary Presidents General were introduced: HPG Barry Christopher Howard, HPG J. Michael Phelps, Esq., HPG F. Lee Perryman, and HPG Carla Whitehurst Odom.

Mrs. Towns introduced Chairmen: Auditor, John Hallberg Jones; Webmaster, John Lauman; Advisor, Barry C. Howard; Gazette Editor, Mrs. Towns; Insignia, Michael P. Schenk; and Regalia, Mrs. Towns.

Mrs. Towns introduced State Regents: California, Wayne J. Rogers; DC; Janet Lewis Downing; Florida, Brett D. Brown; Georgia, Camille Redfern Lowery; Illinois, Kimberly Ormsby Nagy, MD; Kansas, David James Bernstorff; Kentucky, James Reid Hancock; Louisiana, William Allerton, III; Maryland, Melissa H. Fischer; Massachusetts, David D. Colpetts; Michigan, Susan Beninger Petrees; Missouri, Karen Avery Miller; Minnesota, John Hallberg Jones; Mississippi, Mary Kay Hudson; New Jersey, Heather Welty Speas; North Carolina, Roy Murlyn Smith; Ohio, John Mackintosh Bourne; Tennessee, Patricia Porter Kryder; Texas, Karen Elizabeth McClendon; and Virginia, Virginia Hurtes Rouse.

Mrs. Towns introduced our speaker, Stephen A. McLeod, Director of Library Programs, Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington at Mt. Vernon, and editor of his new book entitled Dining With The Washingtons.

Mrs. Towns introduced guests and other national leaders including Carole D. Belcher, President, National Society Daughters of Founders & Patriots of America; John Macintosh Bourne, Governor, General Society of Descendants of Colonial Clergy; LTC Lawrence K. Casey, Jr., Governor General, Order of Descendants of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company; Janet Lewis Downing, President General, Order of the First Families of Maine 1604-1652; Barry C. Howard, President, Winthrop Society and Founder, Hereditary Society Community; Camille Redfern Lowery, Co-Founder Descendants of Early Postmasters 1607-1900; Karen Avery Miller, President, National Gavel Society; Carla Whitehurst Odom, Governor General, Plymouth Heredity Society, Founder & President, Founders Fellowship; LTC Charles Robert Odom, National Society Sons and Daughters of Antebellum Planters; Charles Bryan Poland, Founding President General Order of Alba; Susan Godman Rager, Esq., Governor General Order of Descendants of Colonial Cavaliers; Davine Moore Roberts, Founding Lady General, National Society Descendants of Lady Godiva; Dianne Alley Robinson, President General Order of Merovingian Dynasty,

President General, Order of Americans of Armorial Ancestry; Michael Perry Schenk, President General, National Guild of Saint Margaret of Scotland, Founder and President General, Order of the Norman Conquest; Douglas Mather “Tim” Mabee, Governor General, Order of First Families of Vermont 1609-1791; Kimberly Ormsby Nagy, MD, President General, National Society Children of the American Colonists; and Robin R. Towns, President General, Presidential Families of America, President, Dutch Colonial Society, Co-Founder & Founding Postmaster, Descendants of Early Postmasters 1607-1900.

Mrs. Towns requested that all members, both new and long-time, and guests introduce themselves. They were Laura Schenk, Laura Howell, Patricia Gallagher, Sandy Esty, Sunny Hayes, Susan Erlich, Paul Walden, Christy A. Noble, Susan Adams Fannoney, and COL Clifford C. Lowery.

The Assembly was recessed until after breakfast. Dr. Early offered the Blessing and breakfast was served.

Dr. Early conducted a Memorial Service for deceased members Richard Henry Bales, Verle M. Breesson, Grace Fischer Deupree, James Eugene Froelich, Jr., and The Reverend Dr. Albert Clinton Walling, II.

Mrs. Towns introduced the speaker, Stephen A. McLeod, who presented his book and a power-point presentation on Dining With The Washingtons. Mrs. Towns presented Mr. McLeod with an honorarium and a gift. A book signing period followed the meeting.

Minutes of the 2016 Fifteenth Annual Assembly were published in the Winter 2017 issue of *The Gazette* and were approved by committee. Mrs. Odom and Mr. Schenk were appointed to approve Minutes of the 2017 Sixteenth Annual Assembly.

Reports of Officers commenced with President General Mrs. Towns. (Copy attached.) First Vice President Mrs. Robinson reported. Second Vice President Mr. Schenk reported. Secretary General Mrs. Lowery reported. Treasurer General Mr. Swisher reported a balance of \$19,220.91. (Copy attached.) Auditor Dr. Jones presented the Auditor’s report. Mrs. Lowery moved the adoption of the report. Motion seconded. Motion adopted. Registrar General Mr. Smith’s report was presented by Mrs. Lowery, as follows: as of April 2016, four (4) new members and three (3) supplementals were approved; the last national number issued was 337. Chaplain General Dr. Early reported. Historian General Mrs. Odom reported the preparation of a history book.

Chairmen Reports commenced. Scholarship Chairman Mrs. Lowery presented the PFA Scholarship program. Mrs. Lowery made a motion to award two (2) \$750.00 scholarships to two high school/college students during the 2017-2018 year (i.e., two scholarships awarded in the middle year of each three-year administration). Motion adopted. Insignia Chairman Mr. Scheck reported. Webmaster Mr. Howard reported that website is in good order.

The following State Regents reported: Mrs. Nagy, Illinois; Mrs. Rouse, Virginia; and Mrs. Lowery, Georgia.

Mrs. Towns reported no Unfinished Business. Mrs. Towns reported no New Business.

Mrs. Towns announced that the Seventeenth Annual Assembly is tentatively planned for April 13, 2018, at the Army & Navy Club.

Dr. Early gave the Benediction.

President General Mrs. Towns adjourned the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly at 9:59 am.

Camille Redfern Lowery  
Secretary General 2016-2018



# Louisiana State Regent Brings Presidency to Libraries, Schools, and Universities

Presidential Families of America commemorated Presidents' Day 2017 with the presentation of a bronze bust of President Abraham Lincoln to St. Dominic School in New Orleans. State Regent William Allerton III donated the bust to St. Dominic School on behalf of PFA in commemoration of President Abraham Lincoln's 208<sup>th</sup> birthday and Presidents' Day 2017. Librarian Barbara Scully accepted the gift on behalf of the school. Allerton also donated a book to the school's library, "Lincoln in New Orleans, The 1828-1831 Flatboat Voyages and Their Place in History," by Richard Campanella. Said Allerton, "Lincoln's journey to New Orleans marked his first visit to a major city and exposed him to the nation's largest slave marketplace. This experience greatly influenced Lincoln's life and Presidency. The book is an invaluable resource for teachers who wish to help their students understand how Lincoln's visits to our city shaped his Presidency."



Observing the U.S. Presidency from the inside, Allerton has served in five presidential administrations, from Richard Nixon to George W. Bush, and served on White House staff of President George H.W. Bush. As PFA State Regent, Allerton has promoted a reverence for the presidency by leading commemorations of Washington's Birthday with wreath-laying ceremonies in New Orleans and Baton Rouge, saluted the milestones of our nation's greatest Presidents by authoring resolutions enacted by LA Legislature, and observed Presidents' Day with the donation of presidential portraits, sculptures, and books to Louisiana libraries, schools and universities.

For nearly 15 years, Allerton served on the *Louisiana State Board of Elementary & Secondary Education Non-Public School Commission* which regulates all private and parochial schools. Working closely with principals and administrators, he became acutely aware of the need for resource material to battle the historical illiteracy that grips the nation. In 2005, he donated portraits of George Washington to every public, private, and parochial school in New Orleans (500 schools) in hope that Washington's life of courage and civic virtue would inspire the youth of the city. Months later all of those schools were either severely damaged or completely destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

Today, Allerton continues to serve the children of Louisiana through *Presidential Families of America* to ensure that every child knows the lessons of our nation's greatest presidents and the inestimable blessings of being an American.



## WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

*Presidential Families of America* graciously sponsored twelve Christmas wreaths to be placed on the graves of our US Veterans, some graves dating back to veterans of the American Revolution. Hereditary societies, businesses, and individuals contributed to *Oconee & Clarke Counties Cemetery Project*, part of the nationwide project known as "Wreaths Across America." The project covered seven cemeteries in Oconee & Clarke Counties, Georgia, where wreaths were placed on graves of Veterans, strongly supporting the nationwide mission. The goal of "Wreaths Across America" is to have a wreath placed on the grave of every Veteran in America, one grave at the time. Saturday, December 16, 2017 was the nationwide day for the wreath ceremony. A dedication was held, and a moment of silence observed at exactly 12:00 noon EST across the nation. Following the ceremony, volunteers dispersed, placing a wreath on each Veteran's grave, reverently stating the Veteran's name aloud, as an annual remembrance to that person and his or her service to the nation.

Many thanks to *Presidential Families of America* for supporting this most worthy and deserving project to honor the Veterans of our great nation.







# Presidential Families of America

## Official Insignia Order Form

Member's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment type: Check \_\_\_\_\_ Visa or MC # \_\_\_\_\_

*(Check payable to CityPride, Ltd.)* Credit Card Expiration \_\_\_\_\_

Credit card billing address (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity	Item no.	Description	Price	Total
_____	PF1	Insignia, Full-size, Gold-filled	\$185.00	_____
_____	PF2	Insignia, Full-size, 10K	Call for pricing	_____
_____	PF3	Insignia, Full-size, 14K	Call for pricing	_____
_____	PF4	Insignia, Miniature, Gold-filled	\$75.00	_____
_____	PF5	Insignia, Miniature, 10K	Call for pricing	_____
_____	PF6	Insignia, Miniature, 14K	Call for pricing	_____
_____	PF7	Neck Ribbon, Hook & Eye Closure	\$25.00	_____

Engraving for back (if desired): *Please print clearly* \$ .35 per letter \_\_\_\_\_

SHIPPING — UPS Ground \$ 8.50

**TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

All Insignia are mounted on ribbon, packaged in protective case.

Authorization No: \_\_\_\_\_ Authorization Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

First VPG, Insignia Chair

Please Mail your order and payment to: **CityPride, Ltd.**  
**411 Cottman Street**  
**Jenkintown, PA 19046**

**Phone: 888.679.8888**



## Presidential Families of America

### Scholarships Awarded

The Presidential Families of America Scholarship Program was established by the membership at the 2017 Annual Meeting to further the educational purposes of PFA. A Scholarship Committee was appointed by the President General: Chairman, Melissa Fischer; members: Dianne Robinson, Camille Lowery, and ex-officio, Michael Swisher, Treasurer.

The PFA Scholarship Committee established Scholarship Guidelines for awarding the scholarships as follows. Two PFA Scholarships of \$750 each shall be awarded in the middle year of each three year term. High School Seniors and current college students exhibiting the qualities of excellent character and citizenship, and who have financial need, may be nominated by a PFA member. A high school student must submit their college acceptance letter. A college student must submit a transcript for the most recent year attended or a registration for the current school year. To qualify, the student must write a brief essay, not to exceed 200 words, on the topic designated by the Scholarship Committee. PFA's purpose in requiring a brief essay is to enlighten the candidate about the US Presidency and related topics. The President General judges the entries and determines two winners for the scholarship.

The topic for 2017 was "The Significance of the Electoral College in the US Presidential election." PFA Scholarships were awarded to two deserving High School Seniors.



Bahria Jones, on left, receives the PFA Scholarship and Certificate from PG Towns at Oglethorpe County High School in April, 2017

Bahria Jones, an outstanding and most deserving senior at Oglethorpe County High School in Crawford, Georgia is the recipient of the PFA Scholarship. Bahria graduated in May, 2017 and attends *Georgia Southern University* in Statesboro, Georgia. Bahria presented an excellent and insightful essay, and is most appreciative of the generous financial help with her college education.

Molly Montgomery, a Senior at Kate Duncan Smith DAR School, Grant, Alabama, is the recipient of the PFA Scholarship. An excellent student and outstanding athlete, Molly graduated in May, 2017 and attends *The University of the South* at Sewanee, Tennessee. Molly enjoyed researching for her interesting essay. She has expressed her deep appreciation for the scholarship to help in furthering her higher education.



PG Towns presents PFA Scholarship and Certificate to Molly Montgomery, on right., at KDS School Awards Day in May 2017

These deserving students will certainly benefit from the most worthy PFA Scholarship.



The Sixteenth National Assembly was held at The Army and Navy Club in Washington, DC on Friday, April 14, 2017. The Annual Breakfast was a productive meeting and an enjoyable time of fellowship with PFA members from around the nation.

Stephen A. McLeod, Director of Library Programs, Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington at Mount Vernon, presented an outstanding program on his book entitled “*Dining With The Washingtons.*”



**MEMBERSHIP** is always an important topic.

We have enjoyed healthy growth this year with seven (7) new members! In a society with a specialized niche like *Presidential Families of America*, as in any hereditary society, **MEMBERSHIP** is the key to our success! Every PFA member is an important part of the Membership Committee, and needs to identify at least one friend who is eligible and invite them to join our society! Please make an effort to invite a friend to join.

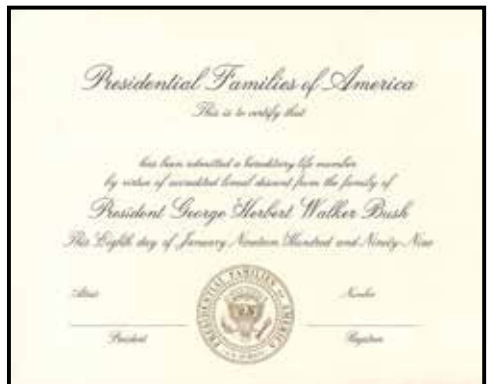
Please take a look at our excellent, NEW, user-friendly **website** for the list of eligible ancestors whose lines are already established.

[www.presidentialfamilies.org/ancestors.htm](http://www.presidentialfamilies.org/ancestors.htm)

The equally *easy-to-use application* is available to be *Emailed* to you. To receive the application via *Email*, please contact Registrar General David C. Smith at [dcsmith42@earthlink.net](mailto:dcsmith42@earthlink.net). Applicants may submit approved applications of other recognized hereditary societies to prove their line to their common ancestor with the President, eliminating the need for endless recopying of proof. This really streamlines the membership process!



**Every new member receives this beautiful, personalized *Presidential Families of America* MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE.**





## The Army and Navy Club Library

The Army and Navy Club, Washington, DC

Presidential Families of America is quite honored and proud to have the donation of two wonderful books of Presidential interest accepted by the **Army and Navy Club Library Trust Fund**. Both publications “Dining With the Washingtons” and “Saving Mt. Vernon,” authored by Stephen A. McLeod, PFA Sixteenth Annual Assembly presenter, were gifted to the Library in June.

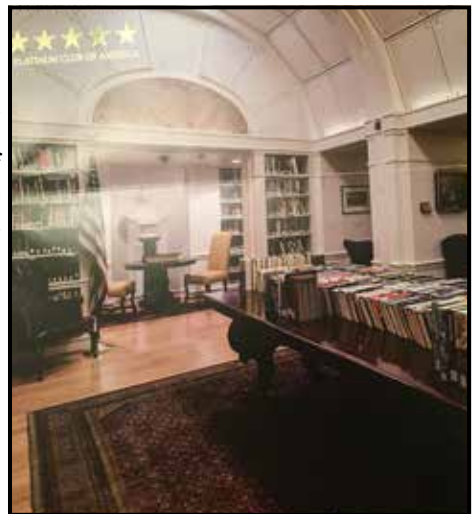


**The Army and Navy Club** functions as much more than a venue for dining and accommodations. The Library Trust Fund, an *IRS 501(c)3* entity, was created to fulfill the original intent of club founders, that club operations would include the preservation of its book, furniture, and art collections for esthetic and intellectual benefit of future generations. Library collections are available to students, scholarly and academic researchers, and historians. The Library Trust Committee’s latest project, to digitize and catalogue the historic collection of military art and artifacts, will make the collection available *online* to a worldwide audience.



Aleksandra M. Zajackowski, Club Librarian, accepts PFA gift for *Library Trust Fund* from PG Towns

Our gift to the *Library Trust Fund* indeed supports PFA’s charitable, educational, and literary purposes. The members of our society are most fortunate to be afforded the opportunity to meet in a most venerable place. While visiting *the Army and Navy Club*, be sure to stop by the Library (on 3rd Floor).



The magnificent Army and Navy Club Library