

NMHS: A CAUSE IN MOTION

A Celebration of Our Maritime Heritage & the Contemporary Maritime Community— The 2022 National Maritime Historical Society Annual Awards Dinner

The National Maritime Historical Society is grateful for our esteemed honorees, presenters, dinner committee members, trustees, and guests for enriching this year's Annual Awards Dinner with their incredible insight and experience, generous support, and for giving us moments of laughter, admiration, and reflection.

It was heartwarming to be able to meet in person again at the historic New York Yacht Club for the first time since 2019, when we honored **Matt Brooks** and **Pam Rorke Levy** for their restoration of the 1929 Olin Stephens-designed *Dorade* and returning her to blue water racing. Our dinner chairs were joined by nearly 200 guests from diverse maritime fields—a wide-ranging group of dedicated leaders exemplifying the strength and vitality of the maritime heritage community today. We were gathered to honor the extraordinary accomplishments of RADM Joseph Callo, USN (Ret.), CAPT Sally McElwreath Callo, USN (Ret.), Steven P. Kalil, and Thomas A. Whidden.

As Pam Rorke Levy poignantly remarked from the podium, “Innovators today are the people who are making history, and the four people we’re honoring here tonight certainly demonstrate that not only are they a part of our history, but that even today they are still innovating and changing the way we all sail and appreciate and enjoy and benefit from our relationship with the seas.”

NMHS chairman **CAPT James A. Noone, USN (Ret.)** paid tribute to the remarkable work of our president emeritus **Burchenal Green**, “who has been the heart of the Society since joining it over a quarter century ago.”



PHOTOS BY ALLISON LUCAS

Before taking to the podium to fête this year's honorees, dinner chairs Pam Rorke Levy and Matt Brooks (center) pause for a photo with master of ceremonies Richard du Moulin (right), America's ambassador of sailing Gary Jobson (left), and NMHS Distinguished Service Award recipient Thomas Whidden (second from right).



Our awardees were profiled in videos produced by NMHS vice chairman **Richardo R. Lopes** and his son Alessandro Lopes of Voyage Digital Media. **Erik K. Olstein**, former president of the Board of the American Friends of the National Museum of the Royal Navy and former NMHS trustee, presented **RADM Joseph Callo, USN (Ret.)** and **CAPT Sally McElwreath Callo, USN (Ret.)** with the NMHS **David A. O'Neil Sheet Anchor Award** in recognition of their important work as NMHS global ambassadors and on behalf of the naval and maritime heritage communities. Introducing the Callos, Olstein said “They are the epitome of excellence, grace and humility... and the personification of selfless service.”

Erik Olstein (left) presents the David A. O'Neil Sheet Anchor Award to CAPT Sally McElwreath Callo and RADM Joseph Callo.



In perhaps one of the most charming moments of the evening, RADM Callo focused his remarks on “my sailing companion, Sally. She’s not only my buddy, but she’s my true partner... there could not be a better partner in a boat.” CAPT McElwreath Callo added “that it is truly amazing to be rewarded for doing things that you really love to do, and it’s been a very interesting journey.”

Capt. Jonathan Boulware, president and CEO of South Street Seaport Museum, presented **Steven P. Kalil** with the **NMHS Distinguished Service Award** in recognition of his outstanding expertise, commitment, and vision that have helped steer Caddell Dry Dock to great success. “The phrase ‘maritime heritage’ runs through the evening here,” he said. “I don’t know how many people have had the privilege of being at Caddell Dry Dock, but it is a place that typifies that exact thing. But we’re also in the company of contemporary maritime, which will be maritime heritage as it ages. It is a continuum.”

Ever modest and gracious, Steve Kalil shared his initial reluctance to accept the Society’s Distinguished Service Award, stating “I really don’t belong here”—we couldn’t have disagreed more. Under Kalil’s leadership, Caddell Dry Dock has continued the maritime traditions of an exceptional shipyard business founded in 1903, constructing and servicing thousands of vessels, and working on some of our most significant historic ships. “I really thought it was going to be a summer job,” he said, “but it wasn’t, and here I am, 47½ years later, and who knows when I’ll finish. I love this job.”

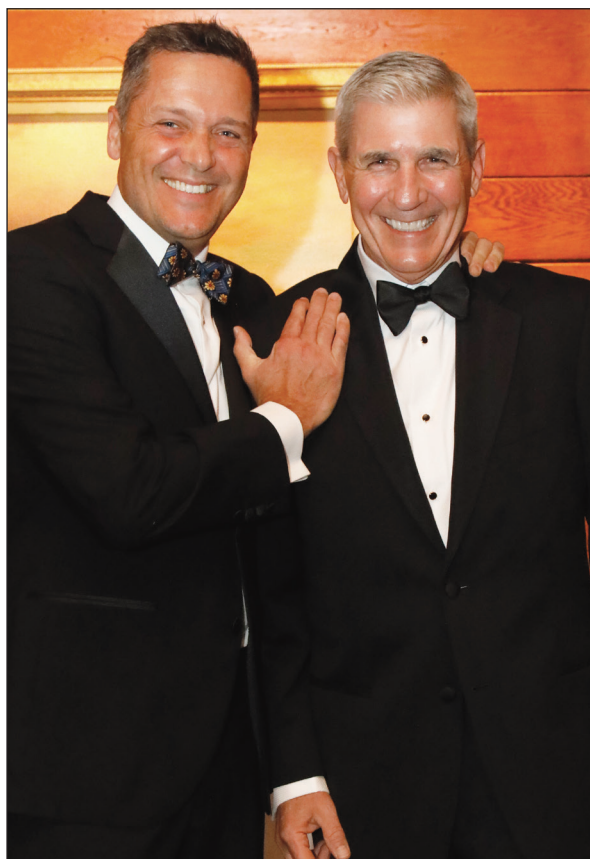
We saw a glimpse of the long-standing friendship between master of ceremonies and NMHS overseer **Richard T. du Moulin** and America’s ambassador of sailing **Gary Jobson**: “You might have noticed Gary trying to get up to the podium before me,” said du Moulin. “Gary, Tom Whidden, and I have been racing against each other and with each other for our whole sailing lives, and Gary, I’m supposed to go before you because I’m introducing you.”

Jobson then introduced **Thomas A. Whidden**, presenting him with the **NMHS Distinguished Service Award** in recognition of his outstanding contributions to yachting, for his unparalleled leadership in the design and manufacture of technologically advanced sails, and for encouraging younger generations to value and participate in the sport. Jobson said: “Tom was on winning boats and he’ll tell you he was on losing boats too. And sometimes I think you learn more when you lose than when you win. It’s a great testament to how when things go bad, don’t give up. Tom came back and went on to an even greater high.”

Tom Whidden told us: “It has always been amazing to me to be recognized for the only thing I really ever wanted to do with my life.” Of NMHS, he said “our missions are quite comparable. We both live to promote the maritime heritage community and to share in the sport of sailing and more generally enjoying the sea, whether it be racing, sailing or cruising, making a living on or off the water or around the sea, or just appreciating the deep history that the maritime community enjoys.” He added, “I did okay for a guy with a full-time summer job.” ⚓

—Jessica MacFarlane
NMHS Executive Director

The vocal talents of the US Coast Guard Academy Cadet Chorale, directed by Director of Cadet Vocal Music Daniel McDavitt, are always a highlight of the NMHS Annual Awards Dinner.



Jonathan Boulware (left) had the honor of presenting Steven Kalil with the NMHS Distinguished Service Award.

