

# Wreath Laying Ceremony



**United States Ship Nitro AE-2**



**United States Ship Nitro AE-23**

*Historic Fort Snelling  
Minneapolis, Minnesota*

*24 June 2016*

# The "Navy Hymn"

(Verse 1)

Eternal Father, strong to save,  
Whose arm doth bound\* the restless wave,  
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep  
Its own appointed limits keep;  
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,  
For those in peril on the sea!

A-men.

\*Bound is in the original wording

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The "Navy Hymn" is *Eternal Father, Strong to Save*. The original words were written as a poem in 1860 by William Whiting of Winchester, England, for a student who was about to sail for the United States. The melody, published in 1861, was composed by fellow Englishman, Rev. John Bacchus Dykes, an Episcopalian clergyman.

This hymn, found in most hymnals, is known as the "Navy hymn" because it is sung at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. It is also sung on ships of the Royal Navy (U.K.) and has been translated into French.

*Eternal Father* was the favorite hymn of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and was sung at his funeral in Hyde Park, New York, in April 1945. It was also played by the navy Band in 1963 as President John F. Kennedy's body was carried up the steps of the U.S. Capitol to lie in state. Roosevelt had served as Secretary of the Navy and Kennedy was a PT boat commander in World War II.

(Information from *The Presbyterian Hymnal Companion* by Linda Jo H. McKim, Westminster/John Know Press, Louisville, Ky., 1993)

# **Wreath Laying Ceremony**

**Assembly of former crew and guests**

**Parade the Colors**

**Honor Guard – Rodney Tibbetts and Robert Knoll**

**Wreath Entrance**

TBD (AE-2)

Tom Papsodero (AE-23)

**Invocation: Donna Wise, Nitro Association Chaplain**

**Remarks**

**Robert Eberlein, USS Nitro (AE-23) 1968-69**

**Reading of Deceased Names:**

Jim Timmons, USS Nitro (AE-23) 1968-69

**Ringing of Eight Bells Phil Wise**

To honor deceased shipmates

**Prayer By – USS Nitro Assn. Chaplain, Donna Wise**

**Wreath Laying**

TBD (AE-2)

Tom Papsodero (AE-23)

**The “Navy Hymn” (Tape recording)**

Sung by those in attendance

**Playing of Taps – Mr. Paul Pratt, Marine Corp League of New Hampshire  
State Chaplain**

**USS Nitro Donation to be made to Friends of the 934<sup>th</sup>. Family  
Readiness**

**Retire the Colors, End of Ceremony**

