

## To Captain H. E. Saunders, USN, Ret.

by

### Rear Admiral A. G. Mumma, Chief Bureau of Ships

We honor tonight a very special member of the family of Hydrodynamicists, because of many, many reasons.

I wish this gentleman to stand while I make a few remarks concerning him, so that you can all get a good look at him.

Captain Harold E. Saunders, will you please stand?

It has been a personal pleasure of mine to have been associated with this gentleman for over fifteen years, and I would like to tell you a little of his history.

When he graduated from the Naval Academy in 1912, he had amassed an academic scholastic record there that had never been equaled, and has never been equaled since. The record he broke, scholastically, was that of David Watson Taylor. This resulted in prizes in seamanship, international law, ordnance, gunnery, and many, many other prizes, as a result of this scholastic achievement.

After graduation he specialized in Naval Architecture and Naval construction. He worked at the Mare Island Naval Shipyard in the Hull Division, 1916 to 1920, during the period in which we were engaged in World War I. During this time this Yard built fourteen destroyers and the USS CALIFORNIA.

Later he was assigned to the Bureau of Construction and Repair, in charge of submarine design and construction of submarines. He executed the preliminary design for the then revolutionary USS V-4, which was later renamed the USS ARGONAUT, and which was the largest submarine ever built at that time.

From 1933 to 1935 he was Force Constructor on the staff of the Battle Force, of the U. S. Fleet, and there effected revolutionary changes in our procedure for damage control of ships in warfare.

From 1938 to 1940 he was Liaison Officer for the Bureau of Construction and Repair, in connection with the design and construction of a new model basin at Carderock, Maryland, so that here we have the father of the David Taylor Model Basin. He served there as Technical Director for a period of six years, and then later, as Commanding Officer and Director and Technical Director, until 1947.

I would like to read you a little bit of what was said when he left that establishment, in 1947. This is a quote.

"Ten years ago Carderock was a barren, weedgrown field and 'the new model basin' existed only on paper.

"Today wide expanses of well-kept lawns surround many stately buildings that house the greatest research establishment of its kind in the world, the David W. Taylor Model Basin.

"In the recently ended World War II the fruits of our labors contributed largely to the victory and we have become well and widely known for our high standards in research.

"You, more than any other person, are responsible for these achievements; your knowledge and vision in planning, and your unremitting labor and infinite capacity for taking pains have made them possible. We, who under your firm but kindly guidance have shared in these achievements, are grateful for the privilege.

"Though you are about to relinquish your command, we who remain shall strive to uphold the high standards you leave us as our heritage. May that assurance and the consciousness of a job well done add to your happiness and contentment in the future."