

***SOCIETY TO HOLD ITS ANNUAL MUSTER AT PILOT HOUSE INN,  
TOPPING, VIRGINIA, JUNE 24, 2023***

*The Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Virginia will hold its annual muster at the Pilot House Inn, in the historic Northern Neck of Virginia, Topping, Virginia, on June 24, 2023. At 10am the Board of Direction will hold its business meeting followed by the general membership meeting and luncheon at 11:30AM. Guests are welcome. Speaker for the occasion will feature Commander Christopher A. Melhuish (USN-Ret) who will speak "Old Ironsides: the Nation's Ship"*

*Attached is a copy of the invitation showing location, menu selection, and also a biographical sketch of our speaker.*

**CAPTAIN CHRISTOPHER A. MELHUSH, US NAVY (RET.)**

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Born in Baghdad, Iraq, raised in Korea, Morocco, and Algeria, and educated in the United Kingdom, Chris Melhuish initially enlisted in Britain's Territorial Army where he served three years in 63 Special Air Service (S.A.S.) Signals Squadron as a combat signalman. After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts (Honors) in Physical Geography, Chris moved to the United States and received his commission at Officer Candidate School Newport, Rhode Island in November 1979. His subsequent sea duty assignments included service in destroyers, amphibious ships, and a Cruiser-Destroyer Group staff embarked in an aircraft carrier. Chris was the Atlantic Fleet Rifle Team Captain at the 1984 National Matches held at Camp Perry, Ohio. He was the sixty-fifth commanding officer of USS CONSTITUTION (*Old Ironsides*).

Chris attended the US Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, graduating with distinction in 1995, earning a Master's in National Security and Strategic Studies. His next assignment was to the NATO headquarters in Norfolk (Supreme Allied Command Atlantic).

He also served as US Navy Liaison Officer to Commander, British Forces Gibraltar. As the senior US Government representative on the Rock, he served as the *de facto* US Consular Agent. Subsequently selected for the Federal Executive Fellowship Program, Chris was the Senior US Navy Fellow at the Atlantic Council of the United States, Washington, DC. His last assignment was on the staff of US Fleet Forces Command in Norfolk, Virginia, where he served 17 years first as a Navy Captain, then later as a Civil Servant in the Fleet Plans and Policy Division (N5). He retired after 40 years of federal service in October 2019.

His military and civilian awards include the Legion of Merit and the Department of the Navy's Superior Civilian Service Award. Chris is a member of the American Friends of Lafayette and the National Society, Sons of the American Revolution. His wife, Kate, is a retired US Navy Captain. He is currently writing a book – historical fiction – about British and American naval spies during the War of 1812.



Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Virginia  
Annual Muster  
**Saturday June 24, 2023**  
**Pilot House Inn**  
**3737 Greys Point Road • Topping, Virginia 23169**

10:00 Board of Direction meeting  
11:30 General membership meeting and luncheon

**Cost: \$25.00 per person**

Buffet Menu: Roast Beef, Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls, Salad, Beverages, and Dessert.

Please send a check in the amount of **\$25.00 per person by June 10, 2023.**

Remit payment to:

Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Virginia  
J. Shane Newcombe, Treasurer  
P.O. Box 59  
Randolph, Virginia 23962-0059

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I will be attending along with \_\_\_\_ guests.

Total enclosed (\$25.00 per person):    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: Society of the War of 1812