

Scott Fry completes lifetime journey in the Navy

By M.B. GILLIGAN
Post Correspondent

DALLAS — It's a long way from Dallas to the Mediterranean Sea, but Scott Fry made the trip there and back in grand style.

Vice Admiral Fry handed over command of the U.S. Navy's Sixth Fleet November 4, and returned the next day for a visit with his parents, Francis and Lois Fry.

"I am going to miss the Navy and the wonderful people I've worked with and the friends I've made," Fry said. "But, I've done everything I've wanted to do and as I've told other people, I'm the perfect example of the American dream."

Scott Fry graduated from Dallas High School in 1967 and was recruited to play football at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

"Plebe Summer was miserable,"

said Fry. "It was the first time I was away from home and it was very difficult."

Midshipmen start out with a seven-week intensive training program called Plebe Summer. It is said that a midshipman's time at the Naval Academy can be divided into four parts: Induction Day, Plebe Summer, Plebe year, and the next three years.

Midshipmen, then and now, go on a Naval cruise in the summer after Plebe year to get a better understanding of life at sea.

"I went on my 'Youngster Cruise' on a destroyer operating in the Caribbean and I really liked it," said Fry. "I knew then that I wanted to stay." His first tour of duty upon graduation was on a frigate at Newport, Rhode Island.

Fry advanced through the ranks and eventually commanded the same frigate that had been his first assignment. He also was command-

er of a destroyer, a destroyer squadron, an aircraft carrier battle group and the Sixth Fleet.

"My wife, Mary, and I were 24 when I had my first tour of duty in Naples, Italy. We did a lot of traveling," said Fry, who had three tours in Italy. The oldest of his three daughters was born there and the younger two went to high school there.

Although he has been many places during his nearly 33 years in the Navy, the favorite of his parents, Francis and Lois Fry, was Annapolis, where Scott Fry served as Assistant to the Superintendent of the Naval Academy from 1986-88. His family lived in one of the large brick antebellum houses that face the parade ground on the Academy Yard.

"It was our best family tour," said Scott Fry. "My daughters were able to walk to elementary school." Moreover, his parents were able to visit.

His sister, Holly Monk, also lives in the Back Mountain.

Admiral Fry cited several of the interesting things he has done during his career from briefing the President and other top administration officials in the Oval Office to appearing on CNN. The War on Terrorism also had a major impact on his duties.

"I was tasked with developing an operation to interdict shipping in the Mediterranean that could have been involved with terrorism," said Fry. That involved boarding ships and checking their cargo. "We continued doing that right through Operation Iraqi Freedom."

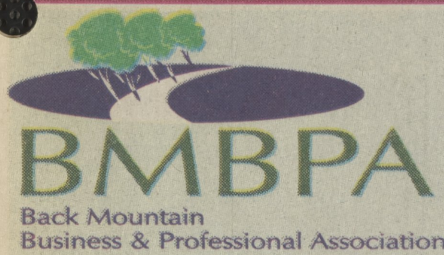
During that time, Vice Admiral Fry commanded the Sixth Fleet, stationed in Gaeta, Italy with 40 ships, two aircraft carrier groups and over 20,000 sailors.

Fry will officially retire from the U.S. Navy in January 2004.



(U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY PH1 PAUL J. PHELPS, SIXTH FLEET PUBLIC AFFAIRS.)

Vice Admiral Scott Fry is pictured at the change of command ceremony on board the USS LaSalle in Gaeta, Italy. Admiral Fry addressed guests during the ceremony where he was relieved of duty as Commander of the Sixth Fleet and Striking and Support Forces South.



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Back Mountain Business & Professional Association supports the community

Stop by BMBPA member businesses and enter to win valuable prizes!

A small group of business owners gathered in the spring of 1992 to discuss the idea of forming a local organization of business and professional people. Just a few months after the initial meetings, the new Back Mountain Business & Professional Association had dozens of members, a calendar of events and even bigger plans.

The original goals were:

- To provide a directory of members and distribute it throughout the Back Mountain.
- To provide a voice on issues that affect businesses in the region.
- To sponsor events at which members can become acquainted with one another and their products and services.
- To encourage members to do business with one another.
- To coordinate special events and sales.

• To inform students at College Misericordia and Penn State Wilkes-Barre and their families of the range of products and services that are available in the Back Mountain.

The BMBPA took on its official form as a registered non-profit corporation in September, 1992 just a few months after a steering committee began to plot its course.

As it has matured, BMBPA has sponsored community events and supported local institutions.

The organization made the original donation that began the CD-ROM collection at the Back Mountain Memorial Library, and contributed funds for the construction of a new children's wing.

BMBPA also took over beautification and maintenance of the triangle at the intersection

of Routes 309 and 415, perhaps the most visible patch of land in the Back Mountain. That task has now been handed off to another organization.

BMBPA's most visible and popular activity has been the annual Easter Egg Hunt, held on the campus of Penn State Wilkes-Barre. The event attracted hundreds of children and their families each year. In 2002, the combination of an early holiday and scheduling conflicts resulted in the replacement of the Easter Egg Hunt with a Children's Spring Festival, held at College Misericordia. That has become the model for future years.

The association produced its second local business fair in April, where members were able to showcase their products and services for a very reasonable fee, and the general public

was able to see the wide range of options available to them right in their backyard. This will now become an annual event.

We also have fun, with a summer mixer and holiday party each year that allows members to exchange information in an informal setting.

Anyone who operates a business in the Back Mountain, or who does substantial and regular business in the region may join BMBPA. A slate of officers and 12-member board of directors oversees operations, while committees work on specific projects and as liaison with other business groups.

Annual membership dues are only \$75. For more information, call any member of the board of directors, or leave a message on the BMBPA voice mail, at 675-9380.

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