

THE NAVY LEAGUER

Fly-In Brings NL Concerns to Congress

By PETER ATKINSON
 Deputy Editor, Seapower magazine

WASHINGTON — Navy Leaguers from around the country “flew in” to Capitol Hill Dec. 3 for a series of meetings and briefings with members of Congress from their respective regions to stress the need for their support of the U.S. sea services.

The broad-based presentations focused on the sea services’ role as the first line of defense for the nation; Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and maritime trade priorities; the Navy League’s America’s Strength Campaign to ensure sea service funding needs are met; and budgetary concerns. Specific points included support for a 308-ship Navy, a fleet of no less than 38 amphibious ships and a Marine Corps end-strength of at least 184,000 troops, full funding for Coast Guard Offshore Patrol Cutter procurement and a new polar icebreaker, enforcing Cargo Preference and the Jones Act as well as increasing the Maritime Security Program, and ending sequestration and re-establishing budget process order.

Split into more than two-dozen teams, 76 Navy League representatives fanned out among the legislative office buildings to make 217 presentations to senators, representatives or their staffs during the Anchors Aweigh Fly-In. Despite several mid-morning interruptions as House members were called to chambers for votes involving the “Advancing Care for Exceptional Kids Act of 2015” and “North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015,” members of Congress were welcoming and receptive to the presentations.

“You get a mixed audience because one we spoke to was a former Marine [U.S. Rep Todd Young, R-Ind.] and is all onboard with everything,” said Tom Baker with the Great Lakes-Wisconsin/Illinois Fly-In team. “And then some of the other ones, which is really why we’re here, freely admitted that they weren’t familiar with this or they weren’t familiar with that.”

“They were also very interested in local stuff, Sea Cadets, programs for young people back in their districts,” added National Director Bobby Ferguson, who was on the



Photo Courtesy of Harry Boyd

U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur, D-Ohio (left), receives a briefing by Liberty Region Navy League members Daisy Gallagher and Harry Boyd at her office on Capitol Hill during the Navy League Fly-In on Dec. 3.

team with Baker. “STEM [science, technology, engineering and math], that rings a bell with them, as it does with everyone.” In addition to their meeting with Young, Baker and Ferguson’s team was scheduled to meet with members and staff from the offices of Rep. Sean Duffy, R-Wis.; Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner, R-Wis.; Gwen Moore, D-Wis.; and Rep. Darin LaHood, R-Ill., son of former Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood.

The lingering threat of sequestration, the disruptions posed by continuing resolutions and related budgetary issues struck a particular chord during the presentations.

“I visited [members from] both parties, and they were all in agreement that whatever good intentions were there for sequestration, the outcomes have not been positive, especially when you look at long-term cost growth in programs,” said retired Navy RADM Thomas A. Cropper, a Navy League national director from the Pacific Central Region who also is president of the California State University Maritime Academy.

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President's Message

Dear Navy Leaguers,

We in this country have been given a great gift, at great cost, handed down to us from the men and women who have made personal sacrifices by wearing the cloth of our nation. As a member of this organization, I know that you are as thankful for their sacrifices as I am.

December has been anything but quiet. We successfully refinanced our headquarters building at 2300 Wilson Boulevard in Arlington, Va., on Dec. 1. The refinancing allowed us to re-organize, and simplify our debt. The new loan replaces a 5.5 percent first mortgage and an 8.5 percent second mortgage with a consolidated single mortgage at 4.9 percent. I'm also pleased to report that the building is 100 percent occupied, further providing for financial stability. Over the next 10 years we will see more than \$22 million in net profit from the building.

On Dec. 4-5, we held the Winter Board of Directors meeting at the Conference Center at the Maritime Institute in Linthicum, Md. The balanced operating budget was approved for 2016, the first balanced budget this millennium, as was a new membership category — a \$25 e-membership, and a new membership dues structure that will be implemented in early 2016. Our second Anchors Aweigh Fly-In saw 75 Navy Leaguers briefing 213 congressional offices preceded the two-day meeting, and you can read more about how Navy Leaguers stormed Capitol Hill in this issue of the "Navy Leaguer."

A great deal was accomplished at this board meeting to set a solid course for the organization for 2016 and beyond. Your National Vice Presidents also were able to get a great deal done in their various committee meetings, including Communications, Legislative Affairs, Information Technology, Merchant Marine Affairs, Membership and Marketing, Foundation, Development, Investment, Naval Sea Cadet Corps Board and Foundation, Interna-

tional, and Budget and Finance.

As we bring 2015 to a close, I am looking forward in the New Year to provide new opportunities for new beginnings. We've all been working hard to provide for a more solid Navy League — and to making our future even more secure. With the 2015 building and budget plans accomplished, we are taking necessary steps to bring about a solution for the Online Community (OLC), Membership and Finance processes to be more automated and timely. After more than a year of difficulties and setbacks with our software system, we will be implementing new systems and processes to provide more capability to our staff and our members.

Both staff and the Charleston Council have been busy making preparations for the June 2016 National Convention in Charleston, S.C. I know you'll want to begin making your own plans to join us to enjoy their southern hospitality. And while you're at it, mark your calendars to join us at these future convention sites: Milwaukee, Wis., in 2017 and Portland, Ore., in 2018.

Due to ever-increasing cuts in the defense budget, our armed forces are being continually underfunded and overextended. As a result, our sea services leaders are being made to make difficult decisions on meeting demands on our resources. In a new report commissioned by the Navy League's America's Strength campaign, Bryan Clark and Jesse Sloman of the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments say the Navy and Marine Corps are approaching a point at which the fleet cannot meet the demand for forces and may have to reduce presence abroad, leaving interests and allies vulnerable.

The report, "Deploying Beyond Their Means: America's Navy and Marine Corps at a Tipping Point," was released during a press conference on Capitol Hill Nov. 18 to wide media attention. This report, <http://navyleague.org/americas-strength/> is yet another important tool for Navy



Leaguers to use in the field when educating local leaders and lawmakers on the potential crisis this nation faces if we continue on this current funding path. At the press conference, Rep. Joe Courtney, D-Conn., noted how important the America's Strength campaign has been in keeping the issue of underfunding and overextension in front of members of Congress and credited the Navy League's campaign for having an impact on getting critical legislation passed.

America's Strength has been gaining momentum around the Washington, D.C., beltway, but we, at the grassroots level must take the campaign's message to the rest of America. Each and every Navy Leaguer is a constituent, and when bringing your message to your lawmakers, you are being heard. In fact, Navy Leaguers sending messages to our Congress makes a huge difference, as you are the VOTERS. We owe that to the members of our military and their families.

My best wishes to you all for a joyous holiday season, and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

All the Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Skip Witunski". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Skip Witunski
National President

Fly-In Brings NL Concerns to Congress

From page 1

Cropper and Linda Diers were slated to meet with members and staff from the offices of U.S. Reps. Mike Thompson, D-Calif.; Doug LaMalfa, R-Calif.; Eric Swalwell Jr., D-Calif.; Jared Huffman, D-Calif.; and Jackie Spier, D-Calif. during the Fly-In.

“I’m right there with you, no sequestration,” said Rep. Rob Wittman, R-Va., chairman of the House Armed Services readiness subcommittee and a member of the seapower and projection forces subcommittee, said during his presentation from Mid-Atlantic team of Bre Kingsbury, Lincoln Smith and Bethany Klein.

He noted that while he was not entirely pleased with the recently approved two-year budget deal, “it was better than sequestration,” and he was hopeful that would provide some budgetary stability that could be built upon in the future.

House Appropriations Committee member Scott Rigell, R-Va., said during his presentation by the Mid-Atlantic team that with Paul Ryan, R-Wis., taking over a House Speaker, he too was optimistic the budgetary turmoil of recent years might be coming to an end.

“Ryan is a strong proponent of regular order,” said Rigell, referring to the rules, precedents and customs of Congress that constitute an orderly and deliberative policymaking process, as opposed to crisis-by-crisis governing.

When he was elected to his first term five years ago, Rigell said, “Not many people were talking about regular order and scheduling. It’s all we talk about now, and that is a good thing. ... This is serious business. These are people in harm’s way. Families are paying a price, it’s going to be tough enough even if we are doing

everything right.”

Smith, Kingsbury, who vice president of development with the Hampton Roads, Va., Council and Klein, executive director with the National Capital Council, met with Rep. Randy Forbes, R-Va., chairman of the House Armed Services seapower and projection forces subcommittee, and staff members from the office of Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va.

Wittman, Forbes and Rigell all urged the Mid-Atlantic team members, and the Navy League as a whole, to keep speaking up on behalf of the sea services in their communities, since many people remain unaware of the issues they face or the potential consequences — in terms of national and economic security — should these concerns not be addressed.

“We will stay after it,” Wittman said. “I hope you will, too.”

The Anchors Aweigh Fly-In was organized by the Navy League’s Legislative Affairs Committee and staff. It was the second one the Navy League has conducted, first was in November 2013.

“The job that was done by Sara [Fuentes, staff vice president of Government Operations & Administration] and her folks in organizing the thing was unbelievable. This is the kind of support we really need in the field,” said Ferguson. “We don’t know all the stuff or have all the materials, and they went out of their way to make it easy for us in organizing all this and providing all of the materials. There were a lot of things that needed to be organized and it was done so well.”

“It was seamless and we appreciate that very much,” Baker added.



Photo Courtesy of Harry Boyd

Navy League leaders meet with Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss., during the Fly-In. From left: National President Skip Witunski, Past National President Jim Offutt, Cochran, National Vice President (Legislative Affairs) Jeff Prosch and Past National President Sheila McNeill.



Photo Courtesy of Tom Jaffa

Representatives from the Northwest Region pose outside Capitol. Back row, from left: Northwest Region President Dick Devlin, Northwest Coastal Area President Alan Beam and Area Vice President Pete Stiles. Front row, from left: National Vice President (Development) Tom Jaffa, Wash. Barbara Bailey, R-Wash., and Oak Harbor Council President Butch Bailey.

Channel Islands Showers Naval Families

Twice a year, the Channel Islands, Calif., Council holds a baby shower for young families stationed at Naval Base Ventura County. This tradition has been going on for more than 30 years, with the Ventura County Women's Council (now called the Channel Islands Council) providing for many of the local young families.

Baby shower collections provide baby and toddler clothes and diapers. Isabel McCarthy, Navy League Council Liaison, coordinates and shops for many of the baby shower items. She coordinates with the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) to find out what sizes and items are needed for the families.

The most recent baby shower was held on Oct. 8 at the Thomas R. Bard Mansion on Naval Base Ventura County located in Port Hueneme. Invited Sailors and representatives from NMCRS Naval Base Ventura County/Port Hueneme joined Council President Robert Foley and McCarthy with presenting the baby shower outfits.

Also in October, the council celebrated the U.S. Navy's 240th birthday and recognized two outstanding Sailors of the Year.

The baby showers are one of the council's favorite programs. They are held in the spring and fall. The council is honored to have outstanding military service members protecting freedom year-round and everywhere they are assigned. It is a joy to be a part of Navy League to support the sea services and their families with these biannual



Photo courtesy of Arlene Fraser

The group photo taken on Oct. 8 at the Thomas R. Bard Mansion on Naval Base Ventura County, Port Hueneme, Calif. Invited Sailors and representatives from NMCRS Naval Base Ventura County Port Hueneme, joined Robert Foley, council president (second row, left) and Isabel McCarthy, front center, posing with baby shower outfits.

events.

The council has monthly Navy League luncheon programs, except during July, when it holds a "no-show" luncheon fundraiser. The council will be changing its program format in 2016, with focus on baby showers for NMCRS and Family Services during the months of April and September as the featured program/project for each of those months.

Fort Lauderdale Sponsors 5K Run/Walk

The Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Council celebrated the U.S. Navy's 240th birthday by sponsoring the 4th Annual Pursuit of Honor, Courage & Commitment 5K Run/Walk on Oct. 17 on Hollywood Beach. The event was a great success! The council raised funds for two great causes, their Spruance Division Sea Cadets and the Wounded Warrior Project.

The day started in the dark at 5 a.m. at Charnow Park on the Hollywood Broadwalk with parents, staff and Cadet volunteers working to set up the course, prepare the registration and food tables, set up water stations, and prepare the awards table and sound system. Bob Dozoretz and Monica Patino of Precision Running Events set up the course, and Nathalie Joyner, of the City of Hollywood, made sure everything ran smoothly.

At 7:15, the Sea Cadets Color Guard presented Colors. Kenny Walker of KISS Country made a guest appearance as master of ceremonies and did a great job. Mary Jordan announced the race. The race started promptly at 7:30.

More than 500 participants ran or walked the beautiful course north from the park, along the beach and back. Arnie Correa of Beard Marine and his Chief Petty Officers Association volunteers coordinated distribution of the water stops along the way. There were also a lot of family and friends there to cheer on the participants. There were sev-

eral teams of runners, including Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale, Navy Recruiting District Miami, U.S. Southern Command and Memorial Hospital.

Shane LeMar was an excellent DJ. At the conclusion of the race, there was a fun run for children age 10 and under. Afterward, everyone enjoyed the breakfast donated by sponsor Whole Foods Market of Aventura. The water was donated by Beard Marine. The awards ceremony took place with award announcements by Susan Harding and award presentation by the Sea Cadet staff.



Photo courtesy of Sally Hosein-Phanor

The Spruance Division Sea Cadets present Colors before the race on Oct. 17.

The Rocky Mountain Region Celebrates the 240th Birthday of the U.S. Navy

More than 200 guests joined in the time-honored tradition of celebrating the Navy's Birthday at the annual U.S. Navy Birthday Ball hosted by the Colorado Springs, Colo., Council on Oct. 10. This Rocky Mountain Region gala was held at the elegant Antlers Hilton in downtown Colorado Springs. In addition to marking the 240th birthday of the Navy, the 100th anniversary of the U.S. Navy Reserve was honored with the theme of "Ready Then. Ready Now. Ready Always."

The semi-formal evening kicked off with a lively hour of socializing. Guests had the opportunity to greet friends and learn about the fleet's newest fast-attack submarine that is the state's namesake, USS *Colorado*. Information and mementos of the boat were available for the party goers. In addition, many took advantage of having a formal portrait taken in the reception area.

At the sound of the ship's bell, guests were called into the festive Heritage Ballroom through an archway of blue and gold balloons. Flags, semaphores, balloons, sea shells, nautical confetti and candlelight set the tone for the evening. A focal point was a lighted ice sculpture of a ship's anchor.

The Widefield High School Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps Honor Guard presented the colors. Navy Chief Petty Officer Kristy Locke sang a stirring rendition of the National Anthem a capella. CAPT Brenda Bradley-Davila led the assembly in the invocation. Retired Navy CAPTs Steve Bethke and Dave "Roy" Rogers served as the Masters of Ceremonies for the event, which continued with dinner and an official program. They recognized the many special guests who were in attendance and conveyed U.S. Navy Birthday messages.

ADM Bill Gortney, commander, U.S. Northern Command/North



Photo courtesy of Joe Suchman, DreamQuest Photography

LT Jim Downing (left), the oldest Navy serviceman in attendance, shakes hands with ADM Bill Gortney, as HA VanEsselstine, the youngest Navy person, looks on as they completed the ceremonial cake cutting. In the background is CAPT Steve Bethke, USN (Ret), Vice President for Programs, Colorado Springs Council.

American Aerospace Defense Command, was the guest speaker. His remarks focused on the integration of the U.S. Navy and Navy Reserve. He thanked those in attendance for their service to the nation and recognized the youngest personnel present for their devotion to duty.

Following the remembrance of missing and departed comrades in arms, champagne toasts were made to the Commander in Chief and the services. Then guests enjoyed the ceremonial cutting of the Navy birthday cake. At the age of 102, Retired LT James "Jim" Downing was honored as the most senior Navy serviceman present. He is one of the oldest known survivors of the Dec. 7, 1941, surprise attack on Pearl Harbor and is a Colorado Springs Council member. At age 18, Hospitalman Apprentice (HA) VanEsselstine was the youngest

Sailor at the celebration, enlisting in 2015. With Gortney and Bethke cheering them on, Downing and VanEsselstine cut the birthday cake with the Navy sword. After a round of "Anchors Aweigh," Liberty Call was announced. The festivities continued with music and dancing until the close of the evening.

The planning and execution of the annual U.S. Navy Birthday Ball is a collaboration between the Colorado Springs Council and many organizations. The Mile High Tailhook Association; the Rocky Mountain Navy CPO and PO Associations; active-duty personnel representing local Navy elements and commands; the USS *Colorado* (SSN-788) Commissioning Committee; and businesses including O'Donnell & O'Donnell, Copy Experts, Dream Quest Photography and Colorado's Morning News on 850KOA contributed to this special celebration.

Busy Veterans' Week for New York Council

During Veterans' Week, the New York Council and its members showed their appreciation for the sea services through a series of activities that illustrated the breadth of the council's support.

On Nov. 9, New York Council Board and Advisory Committee members attended a VIP reception on board the amphibious transport dock USS *New York*, the council's adopted ship, moored at Pier 88 South, north of the Intrepid Museum.

On Nov. 10, the council joined Tin Can Sailors to feed hoagie lunches to 200-plus Sailors and Marines on board *New York*. RADM Cindy Thebaud, the commanding officer of Expeditionary Strike Group Two, stopped by to say hello.

On Nov. 11, the council marched in the Veterans Day parade for the first time. It organized two groups that the council sponsors, Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) and U.S. Naval Sea Cadets. The parade attracts 20,000 participants annually. Its route went up Fifth Avenue from 23rd Street to 52nd Street.

Council board member Evan D.

Dash, a retired U.S. Navy lieutenant commander who is the Senior Naval Service Instructor heading the NJROTC program for the four high schools at New York City's Graphics Campus, marched with 300 of his cadets. They carried a Navy League banner. He was joined by council board member Peter Galasinao, a retired Navy commander. Council board member Frank Goldzer, a retired Navy captain who is commanding officer of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps' George Washington Division, marched with his cadets.

Council Executive Secretary George Simpson drove his 1968 Mustang convertible bearing Navy League signs, with two NJROTC cadets as passengers. Council President Ted Mason, a retired Navy captain, reviewed the council's marchers and the rest of the parade from VIP bleachers in front of the New York Public Library. Earlier that morning, along with other heads of veterans' organizations, he attended the mayor's luncheon.

On Nov. 12, the council conducted the latest in its ongoing breakfast briefing series focused on the New Ways of

War. This briefing at the Cornell Club, open to New York Council members and guests, featured a discussion by CDR Kirsten R. Trego, Arctic Policy Coordination Officer in the Marine Transportation Systems Directorate of U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, on "Responding to Emergencies in the Arctic: A Coast Guard Perspective."

That afternoon, council members and guests participated in a ship's visit, boarding USS *New York* for a VIP guided tour conducted by crew members. Besides checking out the ship's bridge, mess hall and flight deck, they visited a hovercraft and got an inside look at a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter. They also received a rundown on the types of arms used by Marines during amphibious operations, including a semi-automatic M9 9mm pistol, M-16 rifle, M240 machine gun and M32 multishot grenade launcher.

The New York Council, the Navy League's founding council, has 750 members in the Metropolitan New York City area. For more information on the council, visit their website at <http://www.nynavyleague.org/>.



Photo courtesy of Bogart Communications

Council members attended a VIP reception on board the amphibious transport dock USS *New York*, the council's adopted ship.



Photo courtesy of Bogart Communications

Marching in the Veterans Day parade on Nov. 11, members of the NJROTC program carried a Navy League banner.

USS Milwaukee Commissioning



U.S. Navy Photo

Vice Chief of Naval Operations ADM Michelle Howard spoke during the commissioning of USS *Milwaukee*.

During a fall snow storm, the Milwaukee Council participated at the commissioning of the littoral combat ship (LCS) USS *Milwaukee* on Nov. 21. Area President Denny Behr reported, “Great weather for a commissioning ... no mosquitos. Shovel a path, clear a chair of snow and partake of a historic time-honored tradition. Commissioning our USS *Milwaukee* was a huge success, thanks to so many dedicated Navy Leaguers and patriots.”

Vice Chief of Naval Operations ADM Michelle Howard spoke during the ceremony. USS *Milwaukee*, the third Freedom-variant LCS, is designed to operate in shallow and coastal waters throughout the world. It will be one of a very few Navy ships that will be commissioned in its namesake city, in the state it was built, among the hands that built it.

USS *Milwaukee* is the fifth ship to be named Milwaukee, but is the only one of them to be built in Wisconsin, by Marinette Marine. It will be the fastest USS *Milwaukee* in history. The first ship to carry the name Milwaukee was a riverine ironclad monitor, built in St. Louis for the Union Navy during the Civil War and launched in 1864. The ship supported Union forces in battle at Mobile Bay in early 1865.

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker said, “We are very proud the Navy has chosen Milwaukee as the commissioning site. It is an honor to be part of this historic occasion, and we take much pride in the many Wisconsin ties associated with the building of this great ship.”

Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett said, “When this ship is built and sails away, we know it will do so with the strength of Milwaukee behind it.”



La Crosse Council Photo

Something old something new. USS *Enterprise* plank leads up to USS *Milwaukee*.

Presentation by RDML Kearney at NOVA Council

At the NOVA Council’s October meeting, guest speaker RDML Thomas J. Kearney, deputy commander Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for Acquisition/Commonality/Expeditionary Warfare, began by quickly reviewing NAVSEA’s mission, vision and major shipbuilding programs, and went on to describe his newly established NAVSEA organizations as a headquarters with Program Executive Officer-like responsibilities for expeditionary warfare.

Kearney then explained the extraordinary breadth and complexity of his organization. His Acquisition/Commonality portfolio has a unique charter to effect change across NAVSEA by

encouraging commonality in systems and logistics, through development of Program Manager Competency, National Shipbuilding Research Programs and supplier product quality. The bottom line was to reduce total ownership costs and increase system reliability.

He then showed videos and pictures of the wide range of systems being acquired by his Expeditionary Warfare/Ordnance Program Managers. These included stabilized guns for special warfare operations, explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) robots and electronic countermeasures, and even marine mammals. Added to this were Kearney’s oversight of the Naval

Ordnance Safety and Security Activity, support of the Joint Ordnance Commanders Group and executive management of the Joint EOD



U.S. Navy Photo

Program Board. The council members all agreed that he had one of the most diverse, challenging and interesting jobs in the Navy.

EV Cain STEM Charter School Takes a Dive with Sea Perch Underwater Rover Program

Submitted by Cindy Giove, Principal, and Toni Amarel, Mathematics Teacher
EV Cain STEM Charter School

Nestled in the heart of the Sierra Nevada Foothills, three teachers at EV Cain STEM Charter School are busy building their first Sea Perch Rover with the launch of five teams and 15 students in an after-school club program. In two sessions, the teachers - one a former mechanical engineer - built the Rover frame, assembled the water-tight housings for the motors and soldered the controller Process Control Block.

During this process, the teachers have been discussing instructional strategies and logistics for managing tools and supplies in anticipation of five student teams building simultaneously. Because of excellent instructions, the build has gone exceptionally well, with only a few minor hiccups, such as having to recut a PVC pipe length. One teacher can now proudly say she can solder.

Interested students are busy applying to the after-school Sea Perch Club and parents already are asking how they can be mentors. Beginning this month, students, the three teachers and parent mentors will meet once a week to learn about and build a Sea Perch Rover.

The Sea Perch program at EV Cain is made possible because of the generous support and donations from Donald C. Anderson, president of the Placer County Council and chairman of the National Navy League STEM Committee; the Placer County Council; and the National Office of the Navy League, who have donated five Sea Perch kits and three toolkits, with 10 more kits available when needed by EV Cain to facilitate their Sea Perch Program.

Anderson's involvement in science, technology, math and engineering (STEM) efforts at EV Cain does not stop with

the Sea Perch. Anderson also helped to facilitate student E-engineering on the Auburn-Foresthill bridge design and construction in science classes last year at EV Cain.



Photo courtesy of EV Cain STEM Charter School

A student at EV Cain STEM Charter School works on one of the Sea Perch kits provided by the Navy League.

Good Friend of NOVA Council Retires

RADM Sinclair M. Harris, U.S. Navy, a frequent guest speaker at the NOVA Council, retired from active duty in October after 34 years of service. For details, and a tribute to Admiral Harris, launch NOVA Council's website (www.novanavyleague.org) and select the link to RADM Harris.

Harris has become a Life Member of the Navy League, and now is the newest member of the NOVA Council. His wife, Cora Harris, already had set a high bar: she has been a Life Member of the Navy League for many years, and currently is a dual member of the Mayport, Fla., Council and the NOVA Council.

Harris' decorations include the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with four gold stars, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and various other unit

and campaign awards.

He appeared at a Nov. 18 Capitol Hill event where the Navy League's America's Strength campaign released a report, "Deploying Beyond Their Means: America's Navy and Marine Corps at a Tipping Point," written by Bryan Clark and Jesse Sloman of the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments. Addressing the audience of media, industry representatives and Hill staffers, Harris said, "We are using up our ships faster than we can replace them. ... We're asking too much of our ships, of our Sailors, of our Marines, of their families."



U.S. Navy Photo

Sea Cadets Take Part in Navy Birthday Ball

By Seaman Trey Bennington, NSCC
James M. Hannan Division, Garden City, Mich.

On Oct. 3, the James M. Hannan Division and I took part in the 240th U.S. Navy Annual Birthday Ball at the Sterling Inn, providing Arrival Honors and presenting the colors for honored guest VADM Robin Braun, chief of Navy Reserve. During the presentation of the colors, I held the position of left rifle. I felt it was an honor that I was provided the opportunity to carry out the task at hand as it is very important to preform to maintain proper naval standards and customs.

I am very proud to be a part of the Sea Cadet program, as it has provided me with a multitude of skills such as professionalism, bearing and discipline that directly correlate with my plans to join the Navy and become a Seabee.

I joined the Sea Cadets when I was 11 so, at the time, I was a Leaguer [a member of the Navy League Cadet Corps]. I was nervous at first, as every cadet would be, however my home unit the James M. Hannan Division welcomed me with open arms and made me very comfortable with my new naval lifestyle.

Since joining, I've taken part in many color guards, have become a certified emergency first responder, learned to shoot and, best of all, made hundreds of

friends from divisions from all over the country. I truly feel that joining the Sea Cadets was the best decision I have ever made and hope my final two years are as good as my past five!



Photo courtesy of James M. Hannan Division

By Carmen LaForest
James M. Hannan Division, Garden City, Mich.

On Oct. 3, my fellow shipmates of the James M. Hannan color guard and I, the color guard commander, had the honor of rendering Arrival Honors to VADM Braun, and presented colors to 250 personnel and their guests, at the 240th Annual Birthday Ball of the U.S. Navy, in Sterling Heights, Mich.

A picture of the color guard with VADM Braun was taken just prior to the event, and she was very complimentary of us.

I am future Sailor Carmen LaForest, from Dearborn Heights, Mich. I joined the James M. Hannan Division two and a half years ago, at the end of my freshman year of high school. I am now a senior in high school and have attained the rank of E3, seaman. I found out about the program through a Navy recruiter, and joined because it seemed different from any of the clubs and activities at my school.

Through my two and a half years here, I've learned more than my school ever could have taught me. They not only taught me a lot about being in the Navy, but

they taught me how to come out of my shell and lead, not only through observation, but through experience and teaching.

I got the chance to go to different states for training and meet a lot more cadets with the same interests as me. My division gave me something to be a part of, and my life would be sorely different if I had decided not to join. I am going to enjoy every day of being a part of this division until I leave summer of next year to attend Basic Training for the Navy.



Photo courtesy of James M. Hannan Division

For more articles on the Sea Cadets, check out the latest
“Sea Cadet Quarterly” at www.seacadets.org/scq.

Council News and Updates

INLAND EMPIRE

Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) cadets from Martin Luther King High School in Riverside, Calif., participated in the Pearl Harbor Remembrance ceremony in Norco on Dec. 7. The cadets assisted with the flags, provided an 80-cadet NJROTC formation and assisted with the clean-up. Following the ceremony, the cadets were able to meet and interact with Pearl Harbor survivors and other veterans. Inland Empire Council Director and City of Norco Mayor Kevin Bash has been the primary organizer and coordinator for this event since its inception. The NJROTC Cadets from Martin Luther King High School were led by Council President retired CDR William Lauper.



Inland Empire Council Photo

A group shot from the Pearl Harbor Remembrance ceremony. In the middle are two Pearl Harbor survivors, along with a Korean War veteran (in red hat).

NORTHERN VIRGINIA

The Northern Virginia Council recently received a nice letter to Shirley Camp, from a distant relative of hers in Kansas. Accompanying the letter was a check for \$100 to the John Camp Memorial Scholarship.

Camp, a 1955 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, served the country as a naval officer for 20 years, including duty in Vietnam, for which he was awarded a Bronze Star. He joined the Navy League in 1987, and eventually became a volunteer staff member at Navy League Headquarters in Arlington, Va. For several years, Camp was the (volunteer) Secretary for the Navy League Public Relations Committee. He was also a National Director of the Navy League, and served on the Board of Directors of the George Washington Council of the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association. In January 2007, Camp was elected president of the Northern Virginia Council, having served the council faithfully in various positions over the years.

The Northern Virginia council was privileged to have Camp as a member for many years, and in 2009 it established the John Camp Memorial Scholarship Fund to annually award an outstanding Sea Cadets with financial assistance for college or university expenses.

Donations to the scholarship fund are tax deductible, and receipts will be mailed. See the story that led up to the scholarship, at: www.novanavyleague.org/scholarship.

JACKSONVILLE

On Nov. 24, the Jacksonville, Fla., Council had the privilege of providing and serving Thanksgiving Lunch to Patrol Squadron Thirty (VP-30) at Naval Air Station Jacksonville. Taking the group photo was retired CAPT Bob Kidd, former council president. It was his first "official" publicity effort for VP-30 since he was the squadron's public affairs officer in 1971-73. Jim Billberry, the council's vice president of membership, slung the turkey on the serving line.



Jacksonville Council Photo

From left: CMDCM Shannon Stephens, VP-30 command master chief; Leighton Tesche, Jax. Council secretary; CAPT David Whitehead, VP-30 commanding officer; Bob Buehn, Jax. Council president; AWOC Jeremy Auler, VP-30; AWFC Kat Green, VP-30; CDR Billy Bushman, VP-30 executive officer.

ROMANIA

With the occasion of the 240th U.S. Marine Corps Birthday, the Navy League's Romania Council awarded Marine Luis Escudero the "Marine of the Year" certificate in recognition of the performance for his duty in protecting the U.S. Embassy. Congratulations!

SEATTLE

The Seattle Council celebrated the U.S. Marine Corps' 240th birthday with two events. On Nov. 7, National Vice President Tom Jaffa and National Director Diane Jaffa attended the Marine Corps Birthday Ball in Spokane representing the Seattle Council. It was a very formal affair. The Jaffas presented awards to Marine Corps Recruiting Station Seattle, an adopted unit. This included four plaques, gift cards from Ivars and the Seattle Navy League Rookie Recruiter of the Year Sword. Congratulations to:

- Recruiter of the Year: Sgt Dustin V. Richman (RSS Kennewick)
- Rookie Recruiter of the Year: Sgt Alex S. Angle (RSS Hayden)
- Staff Noncommissioned Officer of the Year : GySgt Eddie L. Grainger Jr. (RSS Hayden)
- Staff Billet of the Year: Sgt James Gaviria (RSHQ)

Council News and Updates

On Nov. 10, the council celebrated the Marine Corps' Birthday. Special guests included the council's adopted units, notably the Marine Corps Recruiting Office, USS *Washington* command representatives and Distinguished Sailors, who received awards.

ORANGE COUNTY

The Orange County, Calif., Council was in San Diego on Nov. 6 to present Submarine Squadron (SUBRON) 11 Sailor of the Third and Fourth Quarter Awards. Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Carlstrom was selected as Junior Sailor of the Quarter, Fourth Quarter. Machinist Mate 2nd Class Garcia was selected as Junior Sailor of the Quarter, Third Quarter.

National Directors Brett Nelson and William Mansfield, along with council officer Dru Secrist, presented the awards and spent time with SUBRON 11 Sailors as they prepared for the council's newest adoption, USS *Alexandria*, to arrive from the East Coast. With the retirement of USS *Albuquerque*, *Alexandria* ensures that the council will continue its streak of 18 consecutive years supporting submariners at the pier.



Orange County Council Photo

From left: William Mansfield, MC2 Carlstrom, Brett Nelson, MM2 Garcia, Dru Secrist.

SARASOTA-MANATEE

The Sarasota-Manatee, Fla., Council celebrated the 240th Birthday of the U.S. Navy with a dinner meeting at Bird Key Yacht Club on Oct. 21. Retired Command Master Chief Jack Sanzalone, currently an instructor for the Navy JROTC unit at North Port High School, gave a terrific presentation about the high-technology submarines with which he has been involved. Sailors of the Quarter Awards were presented to Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Brigitta Lambright and Food Service Specialist 2nd Class Brian Black of U.S. Coast Guard Station Cortez. The Officer in Charge of Station Cortez, BMCS Dan Benoit, attended with his wife, Jessie. The cake was cut by 92-year-old Joe Lindsey, a retired Navy veteran of World War II, and Lambright.

SAVANNAH

The Savannah, Ga., Council was invited to help USS *Alaska*'s Family Readiness Groups (FRGs) with their Halloween "Trunk or Treat" event. Council members, Pat Yovich and Deb Stautberg delivered donated candy and other treats to both the Gold and Blue FRGs. The event was held at the Kings Bay Naval Base in St. Marys, Ga. The kids had a great time!

The council also hosted a Thanksgiving Dinner at U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Savannah for all local Coast Guard units and their families, plus Navy families from Kings Bay and Mayport, Fla. More than 200 people attended and enjoyed the food and fellowship. All the donations were provided by local restaurants and volunteers came from the council. Many crew and families shared in the Thanksgiving Dinner, with leftovers for the next day for the crews at work.



Savannah Council Photo

Savannah Council President Pat Yovich with Valerie and James Adegoke & Family on Thanksgiving Day.

PACIFIC MERCHANT MARINE

Phelps Hobart, president of the Pacific Merchant Marine Council, participated in the Wreaths Across America ceremony and wreath laying at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery Dec. 12. Wreaths Across America is an annual event that coordinates wreath laying ceremonies on a specified Saturday in December at veterans cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states and beyond.



Photo courtesy of Phelps Hobart

Council Alert

Council Alert Provided by William Waylett, Consultant for Regional Programs

Council Annual Reports

Council Annual Reports must be submitted to NLUS HQ no later than **Feb. 15** if the council wants to receive membership rebates. The new Automated Annual Report will be live Dec. 22, 2015. A “How to Guide” will be available and further instructions will be sent out to Region Presidents. These reports are reviewed by an ad hoc awards committee annually to select recipients of Council Outstanding, Meritorious and Honorable Mention recognition.

Council Marketing – Do you have a Plan?

Many councils are guilty of “hiding their candle under a bushel basket!” We have a good story to tell and there are many folks in your community that would respond to a marketing message. So, is it expensive to conduct marketing? Not if you have a marketing plan. Here’s a summary of what your council could include in your marketing plan:

- America’s Strength Campaign – America’s Strength is a Headquarters’ sponsored outreach program to advise local and national media, as well as citizens, of the importance of our Navy-Marine Corps team to our nation’s security and the global economy. America’s Strength includes national advertising. This is a NO COST program that the council can initiate locally using materials prepared by staff at NLUS HQ. The program includes Letters to the Editor for local newspapers, presentations to community organizations (service clubs, church groups, city councils, etc.), and timely articles about funding the Department of the Navy, which can be posted on council websites, Facebook and in newsletters. The key message is our Navy-Marine Corps is overextended and underfunded! The council benefits by raising awareness of the need for adequate funding and what your local council is doing to publicize the need. ***This program costs nothing except for the time to submit articles, letters and make presentations.*** Resources are available at

<http://navyleague.org/americas-strength/>

- Create a Facebook page and link it with other Navy League council pages. Facebook postings from other councils, HQ and the sea services can be shared with your council Facebook friends. The objective is to raise awareness about your council and sea service events and issues. ***Again, a no- to low-cost marketing effort, all you need is someone willing to take the time to serve as page administrator to keep your page current.***

- Submit *Seapower* articles about your council’s activities to support the men and women in uniform and their families. If you include high-resolution pictures you’ll improve your chance that your article will be selected. The article may also be chosen for the “Navy Leaguer” e-newsletter.

- Participate in and support community events, such as Air Shows and Maritime Festivals. Publicize your participation and get a booth, if possible. Tell the Navy League story.

- Create a Council Fact Sheet, which can be used for membership recruiting, public relations and legislative affairs. A complete Council Fact Sheet includes the following information:

Council Fact Sheet

Council name:

Membership total:

Membership by Congressional District(s) – for presentations to members of congress

Adopted Ships & Units (list):

Total number of sailors & Marines supported:

Examples of support (awards, scholarships, etc.):

Sea service family support activities (e.g. support for Operation Homefront, USO, etc.):

Youth groups supported (ROTC, JROTC, Naval Sea Cadets - list):

Total number of youth supported:

Examples of youth support activities (awards, scholarships, etc.):

Community education activities (America’s Strength, presentations, etc.):

Community Partnerships – list, to include focus of activity:

Other Community Activities - listing elements:

Any opportunity to be visible in the community is a marketing opportunity. The starting point is a marketing plan that includes the elements listed above (and other activities). When can you start?

Contacting the Sea Services

Region, Area and Council leaders frequently need to contact one of our sea services to request support of some type — speakers, ship visits, a band, etc. What is the proper channel to make these requests? The most effective single point of contact is the Public Affairs Officer (PAO) of local commands. How do you find the right PAO? Here are some guidelines:

- Locate the local command’s website and search for a public affairs directory. The Navy Region PAO is a resource for locating other PAOs.

- Contact could be through the Navy Office of Community Outreach (NAVCO), when trying to schedule Navy resources. Navy Office of Community Outreach schedules Navy Weeks in coordination with Navy Recruiting Command. The NAVCO website is at

<http://www.navyoutreach.org/>. Marine Corps (<http://www.marines.mil/CommunityRelations.aspx>), Coast Guard

(<http://www.uscg.mil/community/>) and provide similar functions. The Maritime Administration’s Office

Council Alert

of Congressional and Public Affairs can be contacted for Merchant Marine resources.

- The Navy Region PAO or Command PAO should receive courtesy notices when you make a request affecting their command. All major commands normally have a PAO assigned. You can locate Navy PAOs in the CHINFO PAO Directory - <http://www.doncio.navy.mil/ContactUs.aspx>

- Marine Corps Division of Public Affairs Directory is at www.usmc.mil/pashops/pashops.nsf/popup. PAOs are listed by command.

- Coast Guard PAOs are assigned to each Coast Guard Area (Atlantic and Pacific) and District. They can be located through the USCG Area Directories,

www.uscg.mil/lantarea/ and www.uscg.mil/pacarea/, by selecting "Public Affairs".

Important Notes

1. Often the only experience the local PAO has with the Navy League is receiving requests (what can you do for us?). They do not experience the support our councils provide sea service personnel and commands. Therefore, we need to make an effort to tell our story to local PAOs. For example, send your local PAOs a copy of your newsletter. Invite them to your meetings or events, especially events that involve recognition for sea service personnel or commands (e.g. Sailor of the Quarter/Year ceremonies, ship/unit adoption ceremonies, ship-visit receptions). As a rule, good relations with your PAOs will produce good cooperation from them.

2. If you happen to know a senior officer and call directly to make a request, you should still notify the PAO of your request. Relations are built on good communications. Your local PAOs don't like surprises any more than you do! A calendar of upcoming field events and activities is now included in the Online Community. Council, Area and Region leaders can post their events on this calendar, which can be accessed by all members. Please add your important events to this calendar.

IRS Information

IRS resources available to councils.

If you have a technical or procedural question relating to Exempt Organizations, visit the Charities and Nonprofits homepage on the IRS.gov website <https://www.irs.gov/Charities-&-Non-Profits/Charitable-Organizations>
Reminder Council Tax Returns (IRS Form 990) are due May 15th. All councils must submit a report.

Other important resources (partially described below):

- EO Select Check
- A-Z Index
- Calendar of Events
- Stay Exempt
- Life Cycle

- Free articles for your publications
- Subscribe to the EO Update

If you have a specific question about exempt organizations, call EO Customer Account Services at 1-877-829-5500.

1. Existing Organizations Course Summaries (download at <https://www.stayexempt.irs.gov/Resource-Library>)

a. Workshop 1 Summary: Tax-Exempt Status
Learn the ABCs of 501(c)(3) tax exemption and how to avoid activities that jeopardize it.

b. Workshop 2 Summary: Unrelated Business Income

Identify income-producing activities that generate taxable income and learn how to report and pay taxes on it.

c. Workshop 3 Summary: Employment Issues
Learn the differences between employees, independent contractors and volunteers, and the different tax treatment required for each.

d. Workshop 4 Summary: Form 990
Walk through the steps of filling out Form 990, and learn how good recordkeeping is essential for accurate completion.

e. Workshop 5 Summary: Required Disclosures
Learn your organization's responsibilities to disclose certain types of information to the general public.

2. Small and Medium-sized 501(c)(3) Organizations Workshop – the 2016 schedule has not been published. Go to [https://www.irs.gov/Charities-%26-Non-Profits/Upcoming-Workshops-for-Small-and-Medium-Sized-501\(c\)\(3\)-Organizations](https://www.irs.gov/Charities-%26-Non-Profits/Upcoming-Workshops-for-Small-and-Medium-Sized-501(c)(3)-Organizations) for the latest updates.

These downloadable PDF chapters come straight out of the Small to Mid-sized Workshop participant text books offered at Exempt Organization's one-day workshops for small and mid-size section 501(c)(3) exempt organizations. These live workshops, presented by experienced Exempt Organizations specialists, explain what 501(c)(3) organizations must do to keep their tax-exempt status. This introductory workshop is designed for the administrators or volunteers responsible for an organization's tax compliance. Pre-registration is required. Visit the Exempt Organizations Workshop Events Calendar external link for more information.

Spring Navy Leaguer Coming in March 2016

Deadline for copy is Wednesday, Feb. 24. Please send photos as separate, high-quality jpegs. Do not embed photos in Word documents or emails. Send submissions to:
communications@navyleague.org.

News from Headquarters

Lockbox Change Coming in 2016

The Navy League payment processing lockbox address is changing. The new address for submitting payments starting Jan. 1, 2016 is:

Membership

Navy League of the United States
P.O. Box 660122
Dallas, TX 75766-9782

Brochures, applications and renewal notices currently are being updated. Payments sent to the Charlotte, N.C., lockbox will be forwarded to the Dallas lockbox for one year.

Navy League Foundation

The Navy League Foundation now is accepting applications for the 2016-2017 academic year. The Navy League Foundation awards scholarships to high school seniors who will attend college in the fall. Navy League Foundation Scholarships are available only to children and grandchildren of former members of the Sea Services and those currently serving, as well as members of the Naval Sea Cadet Corps. Presently, the Foundation has 25 endowed scholarships. Scholarships are awarded for four years and provide an award of \$2,500 per year.

The Navy League Foundation also manages the Alaska Sea Service Scholarship for the Naval Education & Training Command. Six \$1,000 scholarships are available. To apply, simply apply for the Navy League Foundation scholarships and be sure to select Alaska as your state of legal residence. You will then be eligible to apply for the scholarship as well as be considered for the other Navy League Foundation Scholarships.

The application deadline is March 1, 2016. Click here for the application:

<https://navyleaguefoundation.starsscholarshipsonline.com/stars/default.aspx>

Interested students and families may contact Stacy McFarland at (703) 232-5595/(800) 356-5760; email: smcfarland@navyleague.org.

Social Media Tip

Is your council active on Facebook? Does finding fresh content feel overwhelming and time-consuming? Here are two ideas to help.

Visit the *Seapower* magazine Facebook page at www.facebook.com/SeapowerMagazine. Monday through Friday, *Seapower* produces web articles on www.seapowermagazine.org and reposts them on their Facebook page. By clicking the “share” button you can add that content to your page as well. The “share” button is found underneath the post, next to the “like” and “comment” buttons.

Once you click “share” you have two options. You can either “share now (public)” which will immediately share the

post to your page. Or, you can click on “share...” which allows you to type an accompanying message to the post. For example, you could click “share...” and write, “Here is an article from our official publication *Seapower* magazine.”

Another great option for helping with your social media load is to use the scheduling function. Underneath the box where you type your post, there is a little clock icon. If you click that icon, you can choose a date and time to schedule your post to go out. For example, if you would like to leave a message on your page for Christmas day, you can type that up now, click the clock icon and have it scheduled to post on Dec. 25. That way you don’t have to worry about it on the actual day.

If you have any questions about sharing or scheduling, please don’t hesitate to contact Kerri Carpenter, director of Publications & Social Media at kcarpenter@navyleague.org.

Here are some useful Facebook pages to follow:

Navy League National –

www.facebook.com/NavyLeagueUS

Seapower magazine –

www.facebook.com/SeapowerMagazine

Sea Cadet Headquarters –

www.facebook.com/usnscc

Sea-Air-Space –

www.facebook.com/seaairspaceexpo

Navy Leaguer Submissions

Hey, we want to be in the Navy Leaguer!

Want to see your council in future Navy Leaguers? So do we. But you have to let us know what you’re up to. How do you do that? Send your submissions to the Communications team at communications@navyleague.org. For articles, don’t forget the five Ws: “Who, What, Where, When and Why.” Please send photos as separate, high-resolution jpegs, at least 300 dpi. Do not embed photos in Word documents or e-mails. Make sure to include a contact name, phone number and e-mail address in case we need more information.

Who’s putting this thing together?

That would be Kerri Carpenter, Director of Publications and Social Media. You can reach Kerri at kcarpenter@navyleague.org. She also checks the communications e-mail account listed above.

When’s the next Navy Leaguer coming out?

The Spring Navy Leaguer will go out in March 2016 and we need your help. We know a lot of councils are holding, or helping with, events in their areas. We would love to include stories and photos from these events. Please include any info about how these programs did in the past.

Deadline for all copy is Wednesday, Feb. 24.

(This date is subject to change.)

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GOES MOBILE!



The free SEAPOWERS app is available for Apple, Android and Kindle Fire platforms. Download yours today!