




Fall-Winter 2024

The Ship's Whistle

An occasional e-mail bulletin of newsworthy information for Members of the **Massachusetts Bay Council**, Navy League of the United States and other friends of the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and U.S.-flag Merchant Marine. The Navy League is a civilian organization dedicated to the education of our citizens, including elected officials and the support of the men and women of the sea services and their families.

Calendar

- Nov 16 USS Nantucket (LCS 27) Commissioning
- Dec  Toys for Tots Drive **TIME IS SHORT**
- 2025 USS Massachusetts (SSN 798) Commissioning (TBD)
- 202? USS Thomas G. Kelley (DDG 140) Commissioning (?)
- 202? USS John F. Kennedy (CVN) Commissioning (?)



Coast Guard Tour. On October 26, the council had a tour of the Coast Guard Sector Boston Command Center which is operational 24/7 and responsible for coastal safety, security, and environmental protection from the New Hampshire-Massachusetts border southward to Plymouth out to 200 nm offshore, monitoring all vessel locations, communications, and situations in order to implement the appropriate response when needed.

This tour was followed by a tour of the Fast Response Cutter "JOHN PATTERSON" (WPC 1153) one of (6) FRC homeported In Boston.



Photos by Craig F. Walker/Boston Globe and courtesy of Lockheed Martin

USS NANTUCKET (LCS 27) Commissioned 16 NOV

On an unusually gorgeous day, almost two thousand guests observed the ship being brought to life and entering the Navy's fleet. The USS Nantucket is one of 16 Freedom-class littoral combat ships designed to operate near shores — although capable of open-seas conflict. Nantucket is also equipped for long-range combat with the Over the Horizon – Weapons System (OTH-WS), and the anti-ship Naval Strike Missile (NSM), and capable of hitting targets far away.

The Massachusetts Bay Council sponsored the commissioning and credit goes to the Commissioning Committee composed of Navy Leaguers and several Nantucket residents. Adding to the event, Naval Sea Cadets from the David Oullette Div., Gosnold Div., Squadron Seven Zulu, Massachusetts Bay Div, NCBC Division, Falcon Division, Worcester Division and Harlan R. Dickson Division handed out programs and water to arriving guests, prepared the lunch bags, ushered at seating and helped cleanup at the close.

If you missed attending, you may view the ceremonies 'live stream' at:

www.dvidshub.net/webcast/34487




USS John F Kennedy (CVN 79) Reception

On Nov.22, at the Exchange Event Center in Boston, the Navy League Hampton Roads Council and USS John F. Kennedy Commissioning Committee held a reception in support of the commissioning (planned for late 2025 in Norfolk).

The gathering honored the late President John F. Kennedy and highlighted the new carrier while recognizing all those who made the construction possible. Speakers included former congressman Joseph P. Kennedy III, ADM Daryl Caudle, USN, Fleet Forces Command, and others. An enlightening video of the ship's construction was shown.

Council President Tom Hennessey and Ivan Samuels gifted the ship the *USS Boston Presentation Silver Service*, a 167 piece set of silver candelabras, bowls, place settings and other items which were donated to cruiser Boston (CAG 1) in 1960 and meant for any ship named "Boston" in commission. As Trustee for the silver, the council realized there would no longer be a "Boston" large enough to use the service, it best be presented to the new USS JFK, in consideration of the Kennedy's close ties to Boston.



The Drive is still on. There is time to contribute. See page two. Our thanks to those who already have contributed. 

The USS Boston Silver Service



A Gift of Presentation Silver when a ship is commissioned is a long-standing tradition and while we do not have items engraved for USS John F Kennedy, we do have "USS Boston" which is available and very fitting when considering the close ties and bond Kennedy had with the Boston community.

Cruiser Boston was built in Quincy, MA, during WWII, when Presentation Silver was not available. After serving in WWII and the Cold War, she was modernized and served during the Vietnam War. Several years later, a group of concerned citizens realized there was no formal silver service aboard and raised money from the Greater Boston community to purchase the Silver Service with "USS Boston" engraved on each piece and, on larger pieces, the 1776 24-gun frigate USS Boston. The group consisted of members of the Navy League, a Naval Reserve unit, The Ward-room Club, the Ancient and Honorable Artillery

Company, school-children and several other individuals. Presented to the ship in 1960, it was used aboard when entertaining until the ship was decommissioned in 1970 and the Silver went to storage.

In 1982, when the attack submarine, USS Boston (SSN 703), was commissioned, the Silver was taken from storage and presented to the submarine. While several pieces were kept aboard, but most were stored ashore in New London. Upon decommissioning in 1999, the Silver Service, valued then at over \$46,000, was again put into storage courtesy of the Boston National Historical Park, Charlestown Navy Yard where it remains today.

Inasmuch as we do not anticipate another ship to be named "Boston" large enough to use this silver service, it is better to be enjoyed than stored away in some dusty Navy warehouse.

As Trustee of the USS Boston Silver Service Trust, The Massachusetts Bay Council, Navy League of the United States, in accordance with Navy instructions, is pleased to donate the One Hundred and Sixty-Seven piece set to the United States Navy with the understanding that it will be requested by the Commanding Officer, USS John F. Kennedy (CVN 79), for use and safekeeping aboard the ship while "In Commission".



You can still contribute and the council will purchase the toys. Send check, payable "MBC, NLUS" to: Eleanor Samuels, 169 Park Street, Newton, MA 02458

How to get a Member? Ask him or her!
Information and Applications on line at www.navyleague.org.

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