



June-July 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

July 2-7 USS Oscar Austin (DDG 79) (General Public Visiting)
Oct/Nov ? USS Nantucket (LCS 27) Commissioning delayed
2025 USS Massachusetts (SSN 798) Commissioning (TBD)

AWARDS



Coast Guard Base Boston

Enlisted Person of the Year (EPOY) SK2 Alexandra Wirth with Base Boston CO CAPT Chad Brick & MBC-NLUS award presenter Pres. Tom Hennessey.



Navy Talent Acquisition Group

Sailor of the Year/Recruiter of the Year NC1 Luis G. Gonzalez Rodriquez. Council Pres. Tom Hennessey presenting award.



CG Base Boston EPOY

Recipient SK2 Alexandra Wirth with Base Boston CO CAPT Chad Brick & MBC-NLUS award presenter Pres. Tom Hennessey



Boston NROTC Consortium Awards from the council (l to r) Steve Schnitzer, MID 3/C Bednar, MID 4/C Voelsing, MID 2/C Zhang, MID 1/C Jouldjian and Tom Hennessey

SEA CADET NEWS



Sea Cadets Award

Luncheon, 4 May, in the Hull Room overlooking USS Constitution. Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medals were presented to **Sea Cadet PO3 Arlan Troughton** and League Cadet **PO Andre Sweet**. Present were Sea Cadets, several leaders, families and Navy Leaguers. Unable to attend, other unit Awardees were recognized at their units. (Awardees backgrounds on page two.)

Other Sea Cadet and JROTC Awards. In addition to awards made to outstanding Cadets in our sponsored Sea Cadet units, we also provided the Navy League's Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medal for outstanding cadets in MCJROTC, Haverhill H.S.; MCJROTC, Lynn English H.S., MCJROTC, Salem H.S., NJROTC, BMC Durfee H.S. (Fall River); NJROTC, John D. O'Bryant (Roxbury Crossing), NJROTC, Quabbin H.S. (Barre) and NJROTC Oxford H.S.



Oulette Division prepping for Sea Perch competition



Gosnold Div. was very active. In March, the Cadets went to the Chatham Marconi Maritime Center. There they learned about the history of the radio station that took part in the communications of coastal defense in WWII. They also participated in the **Regional Flagship Competition** in the last week of April and The Honor Guard took home the gold. The unit participated in the **Lexington Patriots' Day Parade**; and also participated at the **Cape Cod Care for the Troop** event (remembering all those service men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for all. It also recognizes those who served and collects donations for those who still serve overseas today. The cadets help set up the flag and escorted the Vietnam Veterans across the stage to be recognized for their service to this country.



Massachusetts Bay Div.

PO3 Sweet recognized as unit Sea Cadet of the Year. The Division participated in an exercise with Harvard and RAND Corp instructors. On May 18, Two officers and six cadets attended Mass Fallen Heroes Gala as part of Patriot Week at the Encore Casino. The next day, drill included physical fitness training drill.



Available for donation

Framed 20"x24" photo of USS Constitution with Blue Angels overhead taken during Sail Boston 1997. Available for suggested donation of Fifty Dollars (\$50) to the Mass Bay Council toward our youth support. Pick up in Newton. Contact Ivan Samuels at go2navy@verizon.net or call 617-969-6656.

The Ship's Whistle is published by The Massachusetts Bay Council, Navy League of the U.S., 25 Dorchester Ave., P.O. Box 51662, Boston, MA 02205. To be removed from this mailing list, contact: Editor: Ivan Samuels at go2navy@verizon.net

Sea Cadet and League Cadet Awardees

PO Andre Sweet, NSCC, was selected as a Company Honor Cadet at Recruit Training; has attended Summer Leadership Experience, Inspire Program and Summer STEM Programs at the Naval Academy. He is the Division Command Master at Arms, and PT leader. Outside Sea Cadets, he is the Middlesex All Star Wrestler; Founder and President of Belmont High School's Fitness Club; Is a Wrestling Sectional Placer and Champion of Grappling Industries Jiu Jitsu tournament; was Champion of North American Grappling Association (NAGA) Tournament; and Three-year Varsity Wrestling Captain. He is a National Honor Society Member and recipient of multiple Belmont High School Awards, presently in the Top 5 percent of his class. He has received an appointment and will attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

PO3 Arlan Troughton, NLCC, of Training Ship Wasp, (affiliated with Squadron 7 Zulu), Quincy, MA. He achieved the rank of Petty Officer Third Class, was named the Honor Cadet at Navy League Orientation, and earned 7 ribbons including the Physical Fitness Ribbon (3 times), the Recruiting Incentive Ribbon, and a Unit Citation Ribbon for his performance at Navy League Orientation. In the unit, he is taking on additional responsibility as a Division Petty Officer, serving as a leader for new cadets. PO3 Troughton is a brown belt in karate and has logged 18 flights in the last two years as part of the Experimental Aircraft Association's Young Eagles program.

In Memorium



George Ripsom, a long time Life Member, a National Director and Treasurer of the Mass Bay Council, passed away in April at the age of ninety.

He enlisted in the Navy and served in USS Caperton (DD650) in Korea waters and USS Yosemite (AD19) in the Med. Receiving a BSEE from Penn State in 1960, he was commissioned Ensign (Engineering Duty); and after earning an MSEE from Penn, he served various engineering assignments and had command of several Reserve units. Promoted to Captain in 1982; he returned to active duty in 1985 to direct the Contractor Motivation Program in Washington. In his civilian career, George worked for RCA and Raytheon, including an assignment on Kwajalein, Marshall Islands, later returning to the Lowell facility. Further details of his many volunteer efforts and community awards, et al, may be found at: <https://www.lowellsun.com/obituaries/george-a-ripsom-sr-chelmsford-ma/>