



# NOW HEAR THIS!

NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES  
BREMERTON-OLYMPIC PENINSULA COUNCIL



Volume 65, Issue 08

August 2012

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## NEW MEMBERS

*Welcome Aboard*

- ★ Jean Shea
- ★ Brett Warner

## Celebrate the Coast Guard Birthday August 14 Birthday Luncheon

We know that the real United States Coast Guard birthday is in on August 4, but we look forward to a belated celebration on August 14 at the Bangor Trident Ballroom at 11 am. Make your reservations right away for this great luncheon. Enjoy a special cake as we hear stories about our wonderful Coast Guard.



We are very fortunate to have a strong Coast Guard presence in our area and we will focus on three very different commands. One is Station Seattle whose crews will be extremely busy with Seafair and Fleet Week the first week of August. The Station is tucked away by the Coast Guard Museum in Seattle and is co-partnered with District Thirteen. Lt. Kris Tsaris is the Commanding Officer and he will explain more about their purpose and how they help the boaters in our area; help protect our environment and safeguard the ferries and naval vessels. We are very fortunate to have Ken and Janet Weller as the key contacts for our adopted unit, Station Seattle.

The second unit is Air Station/Sector Field Office/Port Angeles and our oldest adopted unit. Coast Guard presence in Port Angeles began on August 1, 1862 with the arrival of the first revenue cutter to be based on the Olympic Peninsula. The Air Station was actually commissioned on June 1, 1935 and was the first permanent Coast Guard

air station on the Pacific Coast.

During World War II, the air station included a gunnery school, a naval intelligence unit and aircraft to investigate reports of enemy submarines in the Straits of Juan de Fuca. This unit most resembles the television show about the Coast Guard in Alaska.

They focus on search and rescue, law enforcement, Homeland Security issues and resource protection. They're responsible for the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the northwest coast of Washington around the Olympic Peninsula to the mouth of Puget Sound. Thanks to Ken Sweeney and Bill Ashley for being the key liaisons with the Air Station.

The third unit is also unique in that it is a single mission unit trained and equipped to provide security escorts for strategic naval vessels transiting the Puget Sound and Strait of Juan de Fuca. The Maritime Force Protection Unit is composed of Navy and Coast Guard working closely together as a team to achieve maximum effectiveness. Doug Garner is our key liaison and is doing a great job.

Representatives from each command will share some of their stories and give us a better idea of what life is like for their crews. We are so fortunate to have such dedicated people willing to do such great work and they deserve our thanks and appreciation.

**Contact Roni Lane, Veterans United Home Loans  
for lunch reservations. Email [rlane@vu.com](mailto:rlane@vu.com)  
or call 360-692-3856 x 7002**



## President's Message

Your council is so fortunate to have such a strong board of Directors. I would like to share some thoughts that I shared recently

with them, slightly paraphrased.

You represent so many talents and such a vast array of knowledge and experiences. You are all so busy with so many commitments yet you find the time and desire to participate. Our last board meeting was much longer than usual but you were discussing some things that are so important. These are things that require the collective wisdom and insights of our group and I trust your decisions completely.

How often do any of us have a chance to work with others who come from such different backgrounds, have vastly

different experiences yet are so united in their vision and dedication to our military and to our country.

I would match the caliber and dedication of this board with any Navy League board in the country and you would be rated "OUTSTANDING."

Now, with that said, we have a busy few month left in this year with some immediate needs.

Please take time to say thank you to your Board members. There is a list of them on page 7 of this newsletter. If you are interested in becoming a Board member for next year, please let one of our board members know.

Thanks also to the hard work accomplished by many of our members who are not on the Board. Each of you is important.

*Sincerely,  
Carolyn Dankers*

## USS John C. Stennis Early Departure Confirmed

The Stennis and Strike Group three will return to the Middle East four months early according to the Pentagon Press Secretary.

The Stennis has been of the coast of California for three weeks and is expected to return here around the end of July.

According to the Pentagon, the deployment is not based upon any specific threats and it is not a direct response to tensions with Iran.

We are always happy to see the crew of the Stennis in port and we know that the families and friends of the crew share same feeling. We also realize that those sailors like to be doing what they are trained to do and to carry out their mission of protecting all of us.

## Celebrating the Fundamental Spirit of America – and Honoring Those Who Defend It

I wrote a book several years ago documenting the true story about the extraordinary bravery of so called ordinary Americans serving together aboard an aircraft carrier. Pilots of two small planes struck the carrier in the most devastating suicide attack before September 11th. Four-hundred ninety-three Americans died that day aboard the USS Bunker Hill. For many analysts the attack became a symbol of America's vulnerability to asymmetrical warfare. For me though, the great lesson of that fight is America's Secret Weapon.

I slept last night aboard perhaps the finest aircraft carrier in the United States' Navy – the USS John C. Stennis. I say finest not because she is the fastest (she isn't) nor the newest (she isn't) nor that she carries the most aircraft,



employs the strongest planes, the best engines, or any of the things that most analysts might use to determine the power and capability of a ship.

She does however have the finest crew that I have ever encountered. In the final analysis, it is the people who make up the U.S. Navy which makes this force the most powerful that has existed in the history of the world. Senator John C. Stennis of Mississippi had initially opposed civil rights legis-

lation. Later in his life though he supported the extension of the voting rights act and campaigned for Mike Espy, the first African American congressman from Mississippi since Reconstruction. It was particularly moving to see the completely integrated crew -- black and white, men and women, gays and straights, all work-

ing together – a sign that America is not perfect but it is always trying to fix its mistakes and do better.

Aircraft carriers are the backbone of the Navy. The entire defensive strategy for the United States is centered around the power and authority of these great ships.

A Navy ship is sovereign territory of the United States wherever it travels. When you step aboard a Navy ship in

# Celebrating the Fundamental Spirit of America - Cont'd

any harbor in any port in the world, you are immediately returned to America.

This means of course that carriers give us a way of having air bases all over the world – anywhere we want – without having to ask permission from the Europeans, or anyone else. We don't have to follow any rules beyond our own moral values when a carrier is sent to the Middle East.

There is no question that America's future depends on freedom of the seas – every resource from oil to consumer goods must be assured of safe travel between nations. Carriers are best able to assure that freedom because their Air Group can sink any vessel long before it comes within range to damage the carrier. No American carrier has been fired on in more than sixty years. It is good to have a big stick.

The carrier force is flexible, fast, nimble yet still the most powerful that has ever existed. A few years ago the Stennis was dispatched to Japan where her aircrews delivered massive amounts of food and medicine, and helped to find hundreds of Japanese citizens lost in the Tsunami. Less than a week later the same carrier steamed to the Arabian Sea and those same airmen killed one of the most dangerous terrorists in Afghanistan. That single ship shines as all that is good and all that is strong about America.

But the real strength of the Stennis is rarely seen. I wish that every American could spend a day aboard an aircraft carrier. If we could, the debate about Naval spending would end. The Navy today is so different from the Navy that I grew up with 25 years ago. Then, the separation between Officers and sailors jarred any visitor. Many seaman then joined the Navy as a last chance at redemption.

Today's Navy is filled with young men and women who have joined to serve their country and to better their chances at a fully lived life. A great many have graduated college and a remarkable number have earned advanced degrees. I will never forget the young sailor I saw briefly in a mess hall. She sat alone at a table, after finishing an eleven hour shift, coffee to her right staring into a two inch deep textbook of organic chemistry.

The Navy is still a place where young

people are given a second chance. But discipline is no longer a serious issue aboard the carriers. A spirit of service and excellence abounds. The Stennis is cleaner than any ship I have ever stepped foot aboard. And officers told me, universally, that peer pressure more than any other factor guides the crew. They come aboard with whatever problems, challenges, issues and questions that young people across America face. But these sailors are enveloped by a group of supportive peers, guided by leaders who care, and dedicated to making their ship and their country better than it ever has been. Their spirit is infectious. Foreign visitors come away invigorated, and young people from every background, once they experience the spirit of life on a carrier, want to become part of it.

Five thousand young men and women work aboard the carrier – cooking meals, delivering mail, organizing prayer, moving bombs, cleaning toilets, managing supplies, working together in a complex ballet that culminates on the flight deck when the ship, for hours each day, lands and launches more aircraft than Logan airport.

Rear Admiral Charles Gauette symbolizes the spirit of the new Navy. He leads the carrier battle group and is responsible with Captain Ronald Reiss, the Commanding Officer of the Stennis and Captain Jeffrey C. Graf, her Executive Officer, and Command Master Chief Stanley L. Jewett for the remarkable spirit aboard that ship.

I spoke at some length with Admiral Gauette about the remarkable crew of the Stennis. Gauette summed up all of the hope that I have for this country when he stated, "Imagine if we could set free a similar desire to belong to something greater than one's self across the country. To create this same bubbling pot drawing our youth to exert themselves toward something that is meaningful... this thought comes to me every time I watch that "ballet" on the flight deck... of what might be."

This is our Secret Weapon. When we can develop a program which will harness the love of country and dedication to excellence that the new Navy has fostered, no terrorist will threaten us. If we can bring the spirit of youth in America, which I saw aboard that ship, across the

seas to nations that do not understand what it means to be American, the anger, hatred, rage and misplaced resentment will fade away.

I know this is possible because I have seen it. I interviewed more than one hundred Japanese pilots who had planned and intended to crash their aircraft against American ships. My hope is summed in one episode. A Japanese suicide pilot shot down by an American carrier was taken to the ship's hospital. Ashamed of his capture, he tried to kill himself by biting down on his tongue to choke on his own blood. The ship's surgeon began examining him, and the POW vomited on the doctor's chest. Without reacting, the doctor continued listening through the stethoscope, while an orderly wiped off his chest.

If he had vomited on a Japanese doctor at that time, the prisoner would likely have been severely beaten. In that one moment of kindness, he realized that everything he had been told about America had been a lie. This man became a life-long supporter of the United States. Every single one of the former kamikaze pilots whom I interviewed are now overwhelming supporters of America. Universally they realized, through direct experience with Americans, that we are a good people fundamentally interested in bettering the lives of our children and, where possible of helping others.

On this July 4th, the anniversary of our independence, let us all remember that we remain dependent on the spirit of young Americans, determined to serve. And let us dedicate ourselves to ensuring that these brave men and women will have every resource necessary to remain safe as they protect us.

I know that we are citizens of the greatest country in the world. It is not our resources nor our achievements, but the fundamental spirit of America; the imagination, discipline, dedication to excellence and generosity, particularly of our young people that continues to make this country great.

*Author - Maxwell Kennedy  
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## New Commander for Sub Group 9



Rear Admiral Dietrich H. Kuhlmann III will relieve Rear Admiral Robert Hennegan as Commander of Submarine Group 9, according to a recent announcement by the Department of Defense.

RDML Kuhlmann has served on submarines based at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor before on the USS Florida's gold crew and the USS Michigan's gold crew. Each of the subs completed five strategic deployment patrols while he was aboard. Kuhlmann completed his major command on the Michigan's blue crew during the ship's first deployment to the western Pacific.

Currently, Kuhlman directs the operations division of the Office of Budget, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Financial Management and Comptroller, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations in Washington, D.C.

RDML Hennegan has not been told yet of his next assignment. We know that he and Tami will be a welcome addition to any community and we will certainly miss them but wish them well in their next adventure.

## Seafair Fleet Week



SEATTLE (Aug. 3, 2011) The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Sampson (DDG 102) participates in the Parade of Ships during last year's 62nd annual Seattle Seafair Fleet Week. Seafair activities allow U.S. and Canadian sailors and Coast Guard personnel to experience the local community and to promote awareness of the maritime forces. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Torrey Lee/Released)

Seafair Fleet Week has been a tradition in Seattle since 1950 with multiple ships annually coming into the Port of Seattle to celebrate this region's premier summertime festival. In partnership with Navy League Seattle Council and Port of Seattle, Seafair Fleet Week honors the men and women of the military who proudly and courageously serve our country!

Sailors on board the U.S. Navy amphibious dock landing ship USS Pearl Harbor (LSD 52), guided-missile cruiser USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) and guided-missile destroyer USS Halsey (DDG 97) will be in Seattle for Seafair as part of the annual festival's Fleet Week.

A special thanks to Navy League Seattle and the Port of Seattle for its partnership in planning and supporting Seattle Seafair Fleet Week.

### Parade of Ships & Flight

**Dates:** Wednesday, August 1, 2012

**Location:** Seattle Waterfront, Pier 62/63

**Times:** 1:45 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

The Boeing Salutes Fleet Week Waterfront Celebration features the "Parade of Ships" as vessels conduct a majestic procession through Elliott Bay, while overhead a "Parade of Flight" showcases aviators in vintage and contemporary aircraft. Join Seafair and Boeing on the Seattle Waterfront and Pier 62/63 for this spectacular arrival of the Fleet.

### Ship Tours

**Dates:** Thursday, August 2 – Sunday, August 5, 2012

**Location:** Seattle Waterfront

**Times:** Thursday – Saturday 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.; Sunday 12:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**Admission:** FREE

**Age Requirement:** 8 years of age or older

Seafair Fleet Week also offers the public a unique opportunity to tour the ships and meet the sailors who operate them. Ship tours will be available daily, Thursday through Sunday. Docking locations will include Pier 66, Pier 69, Pier 36, Pier 46N and Pier 90.

Seafair Fleet Week Sponsors: The Boeing Company, TriWest Healthcare Alliance, Navy League Seattle, Port of Seattle.

# Our Council Stands-In for the Santa Barbara Council

The Santa Barbara Council works very closely with the Reagan Legacy Foundation in providing great support for the sailors aboard their adopted ship, the USS Ronald Reagan which is currently at Puget Sound Naval shipyards undergoing planned maintenance.

When the leadership at Santa Barbara Council realized they were not going to be able to be here for an All Hands meeting to present scholarships to three members of the crew, they called our Council to see if we could assist.

Everybody here worked very quickly and I received clearance and an escort into the secure area of the shipyard and then was provided a hard hat and safety glasses and escorted aboard the ship to join Captain Burke, his Executive Officer and Michael Reagan, son of President Reagan for lunch. Michael Reagan shared some wonderful stories about his father.

Following lunch, we participated in the All Hands meeting on the flight deck. Mr. Reagan presented scholarships from the Foundation to the following:

**IS2 Justin A. Rini**

**OS2 Brittany M. Washington**

**PS3 Keivanna D. Blair**

Michael Reagan shared some stories with the crew about his father and said that his father would have been very proud of what they were doing and how well they have taken care of their ship.

Captain Burke, Commanding Officer, announced The Blue Jacket of the third Quarter, and Junior and Senior Enlisted of the third Quarter and those who had been selected to the rank of Petty Officer.

After the All Hands meeting, I had a great opportunity to tour their wonderful library and see a bit of the ship. It is truly remarkable. The Santa Barbara Navy League and Michel Reagan have worked with many others to provide for dozens of improvements around the ship such as the Quarter Deck, Library, Chapel, Chiefs Mess, Captain's Quarters and to fund educational scholarships to sailors selected for the exemplary performance.

This was a great opportunity for our Navy League Council to help another Council and personally, I was honored to be a part of this great day and to meet such wonderful people and have a close up view of what our sailors are doing.

*Carolyn Dankers  
President*



*Captain Burke, CO of the USS Ronald Reagan and Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council President Carolyn Dankers.*



*Captain Burke and Michael Reagan with Scholarship winner, PS3 Keivanna D. Blair.*



*Captain Burke and Michael Reagan with Scholarship winner, OS2 Brittany M. Washington.*



*Captain Burke and Michael Reagan with Scholarship winner, IS 2 Justin A. Rini.*





**Fair Winds & Following Seas Dinner  
Honoring Norm Dicks  
Service to US Navy**



**Honored Guest  
Congressman Norm Dicks**

**Date:** Monday, August 6th, 2012

**Dinner:** Choice of Rib eye, Chicken Pascale or Vegetable Risotto

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

**Location:** Puget Sound Ballroom

**Cost:** \$50 per Person \$ 500 per Table

**A No Host Bar Will Be Available**

**Uniform:**

**Military:** Summer White

**Civilian:** Semi-Formal

***Reservations and payment required no later than Wednesday  
August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012***

Puget Sound Naval Bases Association, P.O. Box 2615, Bremerton, WA 98310 360-689-3473, [info@psnba.org](mailto:info@psnba.org)/ [www.psnbar.org](http://www.psnbar.org)

Yes, I plan to attend

I am not able to attend but would like to pledge my support to (PSNBA)

Yes, I have guest

**Rib-Eyed Steak**, 8 Oz Rib-Eye Steak, Broiled and Served with Mushroom Brandy Sauce and Sprinkled with Blue Cheese

**Chicken Pasquale**, Grilled Chicken Breast Sauté'd with Artichoke Hearts, Fresh Asparagus Tips, Black Olives and Roasted Red Peppers in a Lemon White Wine Sauce, then tossed with Penne Pasta

**Vegetable Risotto**, A Blend of Fresh Sautéed Zucchini, Yellow Summer Squash, Shiitake Mushroom Slices, Peas, Tomatoes, and Garlic in White Wine and Butter

Name

Address

City, State

Zip code

**Please indicate number of choices for you and your guest.**

**Method of Payment**

Visa

Check: Make payable to (PSNBA)

\$ 50 Individual Seat

Master Card

\$ 500 Table Sponsor (seats

American Express

**If sponsoring a table please provide a list of guests including their first and, last name, title, name of business, organization or sponsor. If available please email list of guests and electronic copy of company logo to [info@psnba.org](mailto:info@psnba.org)**

Credit Card #

Exp.

Phone

CVN:

2nd Phone

Signature

E-mail

Puget Sound Naval Bases Association, P.O. Box 2615, Bremerton, WA 98310 360-689-3473, [info@psnba.org](mailto:info@psnba.org)/ [www.psnbar.org](http://www.psnbar.org)

# Planning Ahead

For best service, register early for the luncheon and the tours.

July 30	Third Fleet Welcome and Barbecue*, Everett Naval Station 4-8 pm
August 1	Air Station/SFO/Port Angeles* All Hands meeting and recognition, Time TBA
August 2	Deadline for monthly lunch registration Call Roni Lane, Veterans Home Loans, at 360 692-3856 ext 7002
August 1-5	SeaFair/Fleet Week
August 6	Special Dinner honoring Congressman Dicks with special Naval guests (sponsored by PSNBA)
August 7	Primary Election ballots due
August 10	Marine Summer Parade, everyone encouraged to attend. 6 pm at the Silverdale Stadium at Olympic High School
August 11	Maritime Music Festival, Port Gamble
August 14	Monthly luncheon, Celebrate USCG Birthday with our three adopted Coast Guard units.
August 15	Board meeting, Kitsap Regional Library, Sylvan Way, East Bremerton

\*Please contact me right away if you are interested in attending or want more information on these events. [c.dankers@wavecable.com](mailto:c.dankers@wavecable.com)



SEATTLE (Aug. 5, 2011) Lt. C.J. Simonsen, opposing solo pilot assigned to the U.S. Navy flight demonstration squadron, the Blue Angels, performs the section high alpha maneuver alongside the lead solo pilot during last year's 62nd annual Seattle SeaFair Fleet Week. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Andrew Johnson/Released)

## 2012 COUNCIL OFFICERS

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Secretary	Heidi Hottinger
Treasurer	Ruth Bond
Judge Advocate	George Rose
Immediate Past President	Carolyn Dankers

## COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS

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- ★ Drake Evans
- ★ Byron Faber
- ★ Steve Fabry
- ★ Patricia Germane
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- ★ Robert Cairns
- ★ Doug Garner
- ★ Dodie Garner
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- ★ Neva Lamb
- ★ Will Lent
- ★ Helen Miller
- ★ Larry Salter
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- ★ Erin Sorensen
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## Navy League of the United States Mission Statement and Goals

A civilian organization dedicated to informing the American people and their government that the United States of America is a maritime nation and that it's national defense and economic well being are dependent upon strong sea services – United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, United States Coast Guard and the United States Merchant Marine.

### Navy League Goals

- 1. Educate national leaders and the nation.**
- 2. Support the men and women of the sea services.**
- 3. Provide assistance to the sea service families.**
- 4. Support the youth program.**