



Now Hear This!



★ Navy League of the United States

★ Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council

Volume 61, Issue 12

December 2008

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- ★ AnnaLee Todd
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Ron Testa and Dave Shafer Pen the Official Navy League Song

At the Navy League National Convention in Kansas City, MO., I presented a song, "The Navy League" to this great organization. I wrote this song with my long time friend and fellow Navy Leaguer, Dave Shafer. I am happy to report that Navy League's National Board of Directors unanimously approved the motion to adopt "The Navy League" as the Official Song of the Navy League of the United States.

You can see and hear the results of our efforts at this website: <http://www.lonesail-or-bremerton.org/comdocs/NLSong/> The song is in MP3 format, and can be downloaded along with the lyrics and sheet music from the website.

I wrote the words last spring and worked with Dave Shafer to develop the music. He wrote the music conveying the tune in my head. Dave created an arrangement and eventually recorded it on his "semi-professional" recording system in the basement of his home singing the words to his own guitar accompaniment.

This is the first song I've ever written. Dave was amazing in the amount of effort he poured into this project. Dave convinced me to make a major change in the song by reversing the first and second verses. He explained that starting with the verse "Citizens in support of the Navy" was a better "hook" than "Teddy said to all American Patriots" - which I originally penned as the start of the song. (My experience with "hooks" in the past related to fishing! Carol Meteney, provided key feedback for the



The Steering Committee at Navy League's National Convention sings the newly adopted Navy League Song. You should have been there. A good time was had by all! Congratulations Ron and Dave. Job well done!

song's tempo which kept us reworking the music. However, we were really onto something when I finally achieved getting my loving wife, Linda, to sing the chorus in the car!! And, of course, I subjected many of you to listening to the song in advance of our presentation to the Navy League, and your reactions were a cherished part of the development process. For that, I thank you.

We did apply for copyright and will be signing the rights to the song to the Navy League. Several Navy Leaguers approached me at the convention with plans to use the music and words in projects that they are doing for the Navy League such as public access radio and television spots and shows. Others said they plan on singing the song with their membership much like I did with the National Directors when I presented the song. Our hope is that the song will grow our beloved organization and make it stronger so it can better carry out its vital mission of support to the Sea Services of our Nation.

Submitted by Ron Testa

Northwest Navy Notes: The Navy Chaplain Corps: Called to Serve for 233 Years

By Rear Adm. James A. Symonds, Commander, Navy Region Northwest

"The Commanders of the ships of the thirteen United Colonies are to take care that divine service be performed twice a day on board and a sermon preached on Sundays unless bad weather or other extraordinary accidents prevent," reads the second article of the Navy Regulations signed in November, 1775. Thus, 233 years ago, the Navy Chaplain Corps was born.

From those inauspicious beginnings came an organization as legendary as any in America's armed forces. From the Revolutionary War to the War on Terror, our sea services haven't left home without them. Chaplains marched with Marines to the halls of Montezuma, sailed with Destroyer Escorts across a U-boat-filled Atlantic, and prayed with the dying on Iwo Jima.

Now as never before, America's sea services are a global force, fighting current wars and working to prevent future wars. And as never before, the home front is integral to our deployed fleet and fighters.

The Chaplain core is that strong thread that runs seamlessly through the fleet, the fighter and the family. In the deployed fleet, with the Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen, you'll find a Navy chaplain. Where there's an Aircraft Carrier off the Horn of Africa, you'll find a Navy Chaplain. Where there's a Marine battalion in the mountains of Afghanistan, you'll find a Navy Chaplain. Where there's a Coast Guard icebreaker in the Arctic Ocean, you'll find a Navy Chaplain. Anywhere on land or sea, Chaplains are providing for the incredibly diverse spiritual needs of the men and women of America's sea services.

In this century, the Navy reaches out with a helping hand as much as it does with a clinched fist: the role of providing the helping hand is something at which our Chaplains



excel.

During last summer's CARAT 2008 Exercise, Chaplain Lieutenant Todd Fowler implemented 23 community relations projects in five countries in Southeast Asia.

During Lt. Fowler's first tour as a Chaplain he changed the lives of thousands of people in an impoverished yet strategically vital part of

the world. He also changed the lives of hundreds of Sailors serving with him in Destroyer Squadron 1. That's a remarkable feat for an individual, but it's fairly ordinary for a Navy Chaplain.

On sea or land, fighting wars or winning hearts and minds, you'll find our Chaplains. Their job has never been easy, and today's operations present special challenges. Nearly 8,000 Sailors are deployed on the ground around the world in support of the War on Terror as Individual Augmentees, or I.A.'s. Those assignments, sometimes without the support that a ship or squadron offers, may present difficult circumstances for I.A.'s and their families.

Where an I.A. is deployed, serving in combat, with an unfamiliar service in a very unfamiliar place, you'll find a Chaplain. When an I.A.'s family feels alone, cut-off from their familiar support network, you'll find a Chaplain. When an I.A. returns, facing the stress and challenges of re-adjustment to home, you'll find a Chaplain.

During wartime, accident rates for service members go up: a more dangerous world overseas can lead to more dangerous behavior for our sailors at home.

Chaplains are the ones helping keep our Sailors and Marines safe on the home front, ready to do their nation's will when called. Their leadership, character, willingness to lend an ear and sincerely care about the Navy family, may be the only difference between a trip back to the ship or a trip

to the hospital.

But when accidents do happen, or when a spouse needs surgery, a child is ill, or a parent has passed away, you'll find a Chaplain.

For 233 years, the Navy Chaplain Corps has done so much more than perform divine services aboard ships: they've been an operational necessity for history's greatest naval force. As we work for a more stable, more secure, more prosperous future, we need them now as never before. To all Chaplains past and present, Happy Anniversary, and thank you for all you do for our country and our Navy.

BROLPN & the Public Invited to Concert Series

Navy Band Northwest invites you to attend any of our three upcoming concerts. Concerts are free and open to the general public.

December 07, 2008 - Sun, 1:00 p.m.

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony
Naval Undersea Museum, Keyport
Navy Band Northwest's Brass Quintet, "Five Star Brass"

December 11, 2008 - Thurs, 7:00 p.m.

Holiday Concert
Bremerton High School Performing Arts Center, Bremerton, Navy Band Northwest's Wind Ensemble

January 14, 2009 - Wed, 11:00 a.m.

Martin Luther King Commemoration Ceremony
Naval Undersea Museum, Keyport
Navy Band Northwest's Brass Quintet, "Five Star Brass"

Feel free to contact Navy Band Northwest Public Affairs office at (360) 315-3447 or by email at NavyBandNW.CNRNW@navy.mil.

*Submitted by MU2 Justin Belka
Public Affairs Coordinator
Navy Band Northwest*

Honor All Who Have Served



Guy Stitt, BROLPN President, opens the ceremonies at the Kitsap Pavilion on Veterans Day, November 11.

They serve on and under the water, and they lock point in small mountain villages and lonely valleys tracking down their enemies and helping communities devastated by years of war and terror and abuse. In conclusion, Giardina asked the veterans in the audience to carry out a simple task. "I ask you to please share your stories with others. Let everyone know what you have done so that they can see the many faces of military service and appreciate

the personal service of their neighbors and friends, Giardina said. So we end where we began to today. We honor those who have worn the cloth of our nation, who have given their all in war and in peace and we also remember and support and thank the families. We honor the past while guaranteeing the future."

At the ceremony's conclusion, the reverberation of a 21-gun salute echoed through the pavilion, it was washed away gently by the echoing sound of taps performed by two buglers from opposite ends of the building.



Sherrill and Darryl Erickson owners of Crazy Eric's Drive Ins receiving the Navy League plaque from Sandra Smith, Veterans Day Celebration Co-Chair. This is Crazy Eric's third year of providing FREE food for our Veterans Day event. They do this each year to say, "Thank You," to our veterans. Many thanks go to Crazy Eric's Drive Ins for their generous support of our Veterans and Navy League. When you see their eating establishments, stop in and enjoy a great burger or other treat to say thanks.



Sandra and Earl Smith, co-chairs of the Veterans Day Celebration, join 1,200 other patriotic attendees celebrating Veterans Day, 1008

A Gift of Love and Pride

This year, give the gift of love and pride that will last for generations. Share your support of the Lone Sailor statue as you give a gift "in memory of" or "in honor of" some one who is very special to you.

The Lone Sailor Statue represents our rich naval history and the brave men and women who have served their country or are currently serving. The seven foot bronze statue, now standing tall on the new Bremerton breakwater, reminds us of the Honor, Courage and Commitment found in our friends and family in uniform.

This is the perfect time to remember them and say "Thank you." Gift giving is easy and donations are tax deductible. More info at <http://www.lonesailor-bremerton.org/>

**Send checks to
Navy League-Lone Sailor
Box 626
Bremerton, WA 98337**

Submitted by Carolyn Dankers

Information update

Please send any change of contact information to our wonderful database manager, Larry Salter. We need current mailing address, E-mail address and phone numbers for all of our members

Larry's E-mail address is Itsalter@msn.com

Bob Nugent, Senior Consultant of AMI to Address Council

The December Navy League Luncheon Speaker will be Bob Nugent of AMI, former Assistant Naval Attaché in Moscow. As an unchallenged expert on Soviet affairs, he will talk on the recent Russian military adventurism in the former Soviet State of Georgia along with his outlook on other unsettling moves currently being undertaken by the Soviets.

Bob joined AMI in August 2007 after 22 years as a Naval Officer. Bob most recently served as Director of Command and Control Programs for the Navy's acquisition staff in the Pentagon. Bob graduated with distinction from the Naval War College in 2003 and has attended the Naval Postgraduate School and Defense Language Institute where he studied Russian. Most recently Bob received his M.B.A in 2007

from Marymount University in Arlington Virginia.

Bob's career assignments included Assistant Naval Attache in Moscow, Current Intelligence department head in London, and analytic and watch officer assignments in Hawaii, South Korea, and Japan. He has also been Staff Intelligence Officer afloat for expeditionary and aviation units. He has expertise in naval, maritime, C4, and aerospace markets and his skills sets include strategic planning, naval systems, tactics, and platform analysis; market risk research; business process improvement; and international project management.

He is married to Nancy (Smedberg), formerly of McLean, Virginia, and they have six children. Contact Bob at: bnugent@amiinter.com.

Bangor Plaza Sunday Brunch

At our October luncheon, our Council was invited to participate in the Sunday Brunch at the Bangor Plaza. The first brunch was Sunday, November 2, but will be on going. Mark you calendar! This is a great opportunity to mingle with the members of our Sea Services and share a great meal in a great atmosphere with your friends and family.

Brunch is from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. each Sunday. Bring the family. Adults \$14.75; children (5-9) \$7.50. Children under 4 FREE. Seniors, you receive a 10% discount.

You need to make reservations or for more information, please call (360) 535-5928. On the Internet at: www.navylifepnw.com. Be sure to call in by Wednesday prior to the brunch you want to attend if you need base access so you can be put on the list at the gate. If you have a Base Access Sticker on your car, you only need reservations for the Brunch.

BROLPN Members Support Veterans Hospital

Becky Evans came through on another Veteran's Day Remembrance. Becky delivered nine hand made quilts to Seattle Veterans Hospital. She made seven of the quilts herself. Linda, a member of the hospital staff, has decided to use the quilts for injured Veterans who need a special dose of care and are having a difficult time. The many quilts Becky, better known in quilt circles at "The Piper," delivered in 2007 assisted by "Red Dog" and "Wild Duck" went to injured Veterans and had a profound effect on their rehabilitation and helped them feel important and that "someone really cares." Thank you, Piper, Red Dog and Wild Duck for a great job well done.



BROLPN Council Member, Becky Evans, and Linda, Veterans Hospital Staff Member, display one of the nine quilts delivered to the Veteran's Hospital in Seattle.

IMPORTANT LUNCHEON ANNOUNCEMENT

Please be aware and help us comply with the base security rules for gaining access to Naval Base Kitsap, Bangor, for the monthly luncheons. Unfortunately, there will be no "permanent" list available. **You must RSVP for every monthly luncheon to ensure you are on the list.** We must also confirm that everyone on our list is a U.S. citizen. We are required to submit our list to the base 5 working days prior to each event. To RSVP, and be included on the list, call Karolyn at Concurrent Technologies Corporation, at 360-782-5500, not later than noon on December 2. The Navy League luncheon access list will be available at the main gate on the day of the luncheon. Thank you for your cooperation.

Mark your Calendar

What: Installation Dinner

Date: Friday, January 16, 2009

Where: Kitsap Conference Center at Bremerton Harborside

Time: 6pm Social Hour:

6:45 Program and Dinner

Cost: \$50 per person or \$325 per table of eight

Who is invited: All Council Members, military, other organizations, civic and business community

Dress: Military-Service Dress Blue or Other-Business Attire

Comings and Goings

In a change of command ceremony, Nov. 6 at the Naval Undersea Warfare Museum in Keyport, **Capt. Murray Gero Jr. relieved Capt. Christopher Ratliff as commanding officer of USS Ohio (SSGN 726) (Blue).** Rear Adm. D.J. McAneny, commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, the senior officer at the ceremony, commented on Ratliff's performance and leadership abilities. The change of command ceremony marked the end of his 25-month long term as commanding officer of Ohio.

More than 200 family members, friends, guests and staff of Naval Submarine Support Center (NSSC) gathered at Naval Base Kitsap (NBK) Bangor's Deterrent Park for a traditional change of command ceremony, Oct. 24 the. **Cmdr. Vernon P. Kemper turned over reigns to Cmdr. James L. Christie** during the ceremony. During the ceremony, Kemper was awarded with the Meritorious Service Medal.

In a change of command ceremony on the Everett home port USS Momsen (DDG 92), **Cmdr. Robert Bodvake became the fourth commanding officer of the destroyer, relieving Cmdr. Michael Sparks, Oct. 31.** The ceremony came just after Momsen successfully completed its second operational deployment, as part of the Abraham Lincoln Strike Group. The Momsen was awarded the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and Expeditionary Medal. His next assignment will be with the Joint Staff in Washington, DC.

Fleet Readiness Center Northwest (FRC NW), at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island was recently named one of two winners of the 2008 Secretary of Defense Maintenance Award for medium category commands. A total of six awards are presented annually in three different categories for large, medium, and small commands across all military maintenance organizations. FRC NW was awarded in the medium category.

Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility (PSNS & IMF) was pre-

sented the Navy's Meritorious Unit Commendation (MUC), Nov. 7, by Vice Adm. Kevin McCoy, commander, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA), on behalf of the Secretary of the Navy for superior performance providing shipboard damage recovery to USS George Washington (CVN 73). George Washington was damaged from a May 22 fire in an unmanned Auxiliary Boiler Exhaust and Supply space, resulting in extensive damage to the U.S. Navy's first forward-deployed nuclear powered carrier.

The Scorpions of Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 132 conducted a final flight ceremony for the EA-6B Prowler at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Nov. 7, to give the aircraft a respectful farewell and begin their transition the EA-18G Growler. Members of the VAQ community gathered in Hangar 8 to say good-bye to the venerable aircraft, which has fulfilled their electronic attack capability of VAQ-132 for almost 38 years.

BROLPN Maintains Membership Lead

We are maintaining our numbers to remain the largest council in the NW—Congratulations! I would like to welcome our newest Community Affiliates--TriWest Healthcare Alliance and EHT Enterprises--thank you for your support for our sea services. This has been an awesome year for new member recruitment, but to reach our goal of 700 we need to keep the press on. If anyone needs membership materials or ideas please contact Larry Salter. Remember, the best recruiter is you explaining to another why you are a member of Navy League and why it is important to support our sea services. Good recruiting.

*Submitted by Larry Salter
Membership Chairman*



On June 10 Commander Chris Phillips addressed our Council at our monthly luncheon and gave us a lively and informative presentation. CDR Phillips reported to Naval Recruiting District Seattle in July, 2006, where he now serves as NRD Seattle's Commanding Officer.



At our November Luncheon held on Subbase Bangor, Alice Thomas congratulates Lance Corporal William T. Hayes who was honored for being named MCSFBN Marine of the Year for 2008. This Marine Corps Security Force Battalion, Bangor awardee was presented with a plaque provided by Patriot's Landing, a gift certificate to a local restaurant, a statuette of the Iwo Jima Memorial, photo sittings provided by Hudson Photograph and a Ferrari hat & ride provided by the Ferrari club and Byron Faber. These awards were presented by Guy Stitt, President and Alice Thomas, Awards Chair. Lance Corporal Hayes was accompanied by Lieutenant Colonel Hittinger and Sergeant Major Cook. Congratulations Cpl Hayes!

88 Graduate from Inaugural Mariner Company's Bootcamp



Recruit Training Command's "Inaugural Mariner Company"

On October 19, 2008 at Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, IL 88 Sailors from NRD Seattle's "Inaugural Mariner Company" graduated from Bootcamp. These 88 Sailors were now formally known as the inaugural "Mariner Company." The Company spent the next seven weeks training from civilian to Sailor under the watchful eye of their Recruit Division Commanders. Training included: formal classroom instruction, airplane, helicopter and ship identification, Basic Damage Control, Seamanship, Naval History, and of course Navy Core Values - Honor Courage and Commitment.

Navy Recruiting District Seattle's Command Master Chief, Dorothy Maiheu, visited Recruit Training Command serving as Navy Recruiting District Seattle's Representative and listened first hand to the Recruits training experience and discovered what it was like to be part of the

"First Mariner Company." After listening to some good "sea stories" from our Sailors "Boot Camp" experience, Master Chief Mahieu presented some Mariner memorabilia to the Company's Honor Grads. Each Sailor received a congratulatory letter from Governor Gregoire thanking them for their service.

Navy Recruiting District Seattle is the largest recruiting district in the United States. The district covers Alaska, Montana, Northern Idaho and Washington. There are 121 enlisted recruiters assigned to 45 recruiting stations. There are 6 officer recruiters assigned to three officer recruiting stations. There are four Navy Recruit Processing Stations (NRPS) located in the district. The headquarters for NRD Seattle is located in downtown Seattle. Recruiters enlist an average of 1,200 new Sailors every year.

*Submitted by
Commander Chris Phillips*

The Navy League 106th Annual National Convention in America's Heartland, Kansas City Oct. 29-31

The Navy League held its 106th annual national convention in Kansas City at the Westin Crown Center beginning on Oct. 29. The Kansas City Navy League Council hosted the 3-day event bringing approximately 300 members and guests from around the world.

Six BROLPN council members attended. Larry Salter was elected as a National Director; Carol Meteney as Northwest Coastal Area President and National Director; Ron Testa as Emeritus National Director. Workshops for the various committees were attended by members including Youth, Legislative Affairs, IT, Public Affairs, Sea Service Panel, Sea Service Awards Luncheon. The committees give new and potential officers an opportunity to learn how our Navy League works at the National level.

Our Honor Ceremony was attended by Dave and Alice Thomas. Dave accepted BROLPN's award for Outstanding Council and the first Mackey Award for Outstanding Web Site. Our own Dave Shafer and Ron Testa have written an official song for the Navy League. (See the front page article in this newsletter.) Everyone who heard it was excited. We all had fun when it was presented to the Board Members for a vote and was accepted unanimously.

One of the highlights of the convention was the Sea Services Awards Luncheon on Friday where 18 Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine military and civilian personnel received highly coveted awards for outstanding service, particularly while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan in support of the Global War on Terror. The guest speaker for the awards luncheon was Maj. Gen. Douglas M. Stone

from the office of the chief of Marine Corps Reserve Affairs

Closing out the convention was the Navy's deputy chief of operations for communication network, Vice Adm. Harry B. Harris, Jr., the dinner guest speaker.

On the social front, the Kansas City Council was a gracious host. The beautiful hotel and great tours of the area allowed good region participation. Alice Thomas especially enjoyed the opportunity to tour the Hallmark Visitors Center and the Arabia Steamboat Museum. Hallmark Cards originated in Kansas City. It was fun to see displays of some of the older cards. It was also fun to get some insight, through a movie, into the process that the artists and composers use to create those cards. The Steamboat, Arabia, sunk in the Missouri River in 1856. The museum highlights a bit of the history that led to that sinking as well as showing merchandise from a bygone era. Fascinating!

The next opportunity for participation is the 2009 Northwest Region Conference to be held in Tacoma. Information and a date will be in a future newsletter.

*Submitted by Carol Meteney
& Alice Thomas*

Nametags

Want to let people know your name and be recognized as a member of Navy League?

Order your magnetic nametag now. You can E-mail Carolyn Dankers at c.dankers@wavecable.com or place your order at the registration desk at the next luncheon. Nametags are \$8.00.

December Luncheon Speaker Bob Nugent Former Naval Attache' in Moscow

The Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Navy League monthly luncheon will be held on Tuesday, December 9th, at 11:30 a.m. in the Bangor Plaza, Naval Base Kitsap - Bangor. Retired Commander Bob Nugent, former Asst. Naval Attaché in Moscow, currently employed by AMI International, is an expert on Soviet affairs

The public is invited to attend, but must make reservations and enter only through the Main Gate off Luoto Road. Even if you are on a permanent list, Call Concurrent Technologies Corporation (CTC) (360-782-5500) no later than Wednesday, December 3rd to make a reservation. New information is required to get through the gate. The cost of the luncheon is \$15/person.



Dave Thomas, President Elect of Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council of Navy League accepts the award for Outstanding Council and the Mackie Award for Best Web Site from National President Mike McGrath



Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council
Navy League of the United States
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Planning Ahead

	Sunday	Dec 7	Navy Band Northwest's Brass Quintet, "Five Star Brass" 1:00 p.m. Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony Naval Undersea Museum, Keyport, WA
	Tuesday	Dec 9	Monthly Luncheon Meeting, Bangor Plaza - 11:30 am Program – Bob Nugent of AML, former Asst Naval Attaché' in Moscow
	Thurs	Dec 11	Navy Band Northwest's Wind Ensemble Holiday Concert – 7:00 pm Bremerton High School Performing Arts Center
	Thursday	Dec 25	MERRY CHRISTMAS
	Wed	Jan 7	Board of Director's meeting - 5:30 pm Reid Real Estate, Silverdale
	Tuesday	Jan 13	Monthly Luncheon Meeting, Bangor Plaza - 11:30 am
	Friday	Jan 16	Installation Dinner – 6:00 p.m. Bremerton Harborside Conference Center

This Date in History

December 3, 1775 – LT John Paul Jones raises the Grand Union flag on *Alfred*. First American flag raised over American naval vessel.

 **Now Hear This!** is the official newsletter of the Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council of the Navy League of the United States. It is published monthly and provided to all members.

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We welcome your comments and story ideas. Items for publication, changes of address, and inquiries should be sent to:

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