



NOW HEAR THIS

Winner 2002 & 2003
David M. Mackie
Award

Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council Navy League of the United States

Volume 57 Issue 2

<http://brem-olympic.nlus.us>

February 2005

Winner of the 2003 Donald M. Mackie Award!

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello, and thank you all for your tremendous support to our Navy League Council throughout 2004. As I prepare to take office as the president for this great organization I wanted to reflect on a few of the activities that have provided us notoriety. The Armed Forces Day Event, our annual signature event, is always well respected by both civilian and active duty in our community. I truly hope that those who have assisted with its planning, organizing, and fund raising will continue to do so. Four years ago, my first year as a member, this event sold me on the value of the Navy League and the support that it provides to the sea services. Also, let us not forget that during Vern Young's tenure as president our council was the recipient of The Centennial Award for The Navy League. How awesome is that! Earl Smith; my comments can't shed light on what both he and Sandra have provided to this council. Where does one start in thanking those two? Not only has Earl been the primary source of coordinating and funding for our Armed Forces Day Event, he also was one of the primary planners for The Veteran's Day Service which brought most, if not all other non-profit service related entities together for a smashing

event. We have numerous activities throughout the course of the year and I'm requesting those members sitting on the sidelines thinking of participating to do so as our seasoned Council veterans have been carrying the torch for some time. The arrival of The USS John C Stennis took place on Saturday, the 8th of January. As many of you may have gathered the weather was cold with some rain and snow; enough to cause the SARS helicopter that departed from the Naval Hospital carrying the County Commissioners, and which I was

(Continued on page 2)

February Luncheon

- Date:** February 8, 2005
- Time:** 11:30 AM
- Place:** Bangor Plaza, Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor
- Program:** To Be Announced

Call Pioneer Services at (360) 405-6336 by Thursday, February 3rd to make your reservation. You are asked to call even if you have a standing reservation.

RESERVATIONS ARE NECESSARY. ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST BE SIGNED UP AND ON THE RESERVATIONS LIST. GUESTS AND MEMBERS WITHOUT A BASE PASS MUST ALSO BE ON THE LIST AND ENTER THROUGH THE MAIN GATE.

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 mailed to all members. **Winner of the 2002 & 2003 Donald M. Mackie Award.**

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(President's Comments - Continued from page 1)

scheduled to be on. to make an emergency landing "6 miles from nowhere" in Jefferson County. Feeling fatigue from the week and recognizing the full day of events, I chose not to take the helo ride out. After feeling like a loser for having chosen not to take a once in a lifetime ride, Captain Biezel approached me around 1030 and informed that the helicopter departing from the hospital went down in Port Townsend due to a snow squall and lack of deicing equipment on the helicopter. Talk about a premonition. The Commissioners didn't arrive until 12:30. The arrival of The Stennis was followed by a VIP Reception which provided me the opportunity to provide Captain Buss with donations in the amount of \$6,800 on behalf of our council. Without our donations, The Stennis Wardroom would have had to pay for the event and that didn't sit well with me. A Capital Ship, such as The Stennis, with what it brings to the northwest, paying for a party for dignitaries. We, our council, made it possible for this not to be the case. A special thanks to Guy Stitt with PSNBA for his support. In closing, this will be a new experience for me and those officers, board members, and national directors not specifically mentioned within my comments know that I will be looking to your for your guidance,

wisdom and participation to ensure that this council honors those before us and we continue to achieve great things in support of the Navy, Marine Corp, Coast Guard, and Maritime Service.

Van, thank you for your service and dedication as president to this council.

Roger



Council Recognizes Naval Base Kitsap Sailors



**EN1 Aaron Thiss 2004
Sailor of the Year**



**CS2 David Holmes
2004 Jr. Sailor of the Year**



**CSSCN Johnson
2004 Bluejacket of the**



**MA1 Ruffin
Sr. Sailor of the
Quarter; 4th Qtr**



**MA3 Hersee
Jr. Sailor of the
Quarter; 4th Qtr**

CNO Discusses 2005 Guidance

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Vern Clark emphasized the necessity of winning the fight and bridging to the future during a recent interview at the Pentagon.

"Make no mistake, we are at war. To pretend that it's anything else is to grossly miss the message that I'm sending to our people," Clark stated. "We have to win the fight while we are creating and shaping our new Navy, and that's what this guidance is about."

CNO emphasized that the Navy's continuing transformation into a ready, responsive and flexible service

is a must. That includes responding to humanitarian assistance needs such as the current tsunami relief efforts underway in the Western Pacific.

"We have to make sure that we've got a ready force, a force that's more ready and more available than it was five years ago, and a force that we want to keep that way," Clark said. When asked if the Navy could maintain its "6+2" capability in 2005. "The fleet can do that any day. That's the product of the things that we've been doing for the past two years. This is what the taxpayers expect from the investment that they've made in the Navy," Clark replied.

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Welcome Aboard

The Council extends a warm welcome to the following recent new members: *Mr. Alton Caldwell, Byron & Sherree Chamberlain, Lynn Currie, Mrs. Janet Gray, Lamoyne & Agnes Jevne.* Contact one of the officers to find out how you can contribute to the Council's ongoing activities.

The Council also thanks *Community Affiliate, AMI International* for their continued support of the Navy League.

Stennis arrives in Bremerton



Official US Navy File Photo

USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) pulled into its new homeport at Bremerton's Delta Pier on Naval Base Kitsap (NBK) Jan. 8 at 1 p.m.

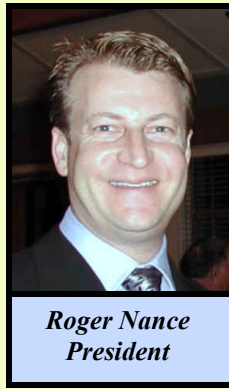
Stennis moved to Bremerton, from San Diego to utilize NBK's overhaul facilities and to replace USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70), which is moving to Norfolk, Va.

"We have had a great trip here with an amazing delegation of volunteers from the local Kitsap community," said Capt. David H. Buss, the ship's commanding officer. "They were essential in helping our Sailors become acclimated to the community.

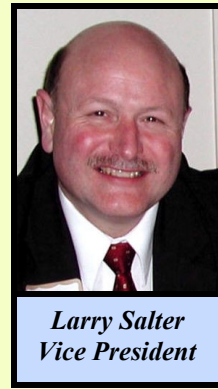
"I couldn't be more ready to get back to that mountain air and those rainy seasons," said Aviation Boat-swain's Mate (Handling) Airman Dian-nah Ashburn, a Washington native.

From a story by JOSN Tara Cornett, Navy Region Northwest Public Affairs

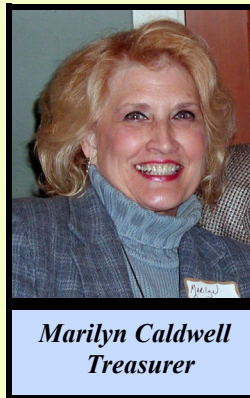
Meet The Council's 2005 Officers



*Roger Nance
President*



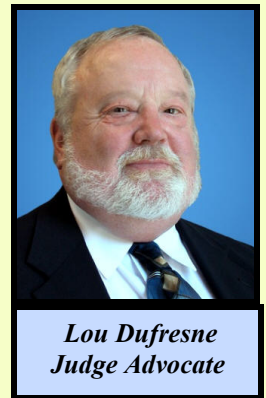
*Larry Salter
Vice President*



*Marilyn Caldwell
Treasurer*



*Annie Fields
Secretary*



*Lou Dufresne
Judge Advocate*

(CNO Discusses ...Continued from page 2)

In 2004, the fleet maintained "6+2" readiness to consistently deliver six forward-deployed or ready-to-surge carrier strike groups (CSG), plus two additional CSGs in 90 days or less. The Navy also demonstrated "presence with a purpose" in a multi-CSG surge exercise, Summer Pulse '04.

"That's the heart and soul of the 2005 Guidance, making sure we're prepared to do what we need to do. Our responsibility is to produce the capability that our senior leadership has need for."

Those responsibilities stretch into personnel issues as well, Clark said. He has already met with each of the major warfare community leaders three times to discuss ways to improve quality of service for the enlisted Sailor.

"We can do a lot for ourselves, and we intend to," Clark said. "We need to put the power of choice back

into the hands of our people and give them more say in the way they shape their lives, pay and allowances and career paths."

An example of this type of thinking is the Perform-to-Serve initiative and Assignment Incentive Pay (AIP), he said. "We have already dramatically changed the working relationship between our people and the Bureau," he said. "The person with the power of choice ought to be the Sailor who was going to the job, not the detailee in Millington, Tenn. So, we went and created Assignment Incentive Pay." In the AIP process, the percentage of Sailors being forced into certain orders has dropped from about 30 to 35 percent on average to less than one percent, Clark said. "Our Sailors need to know that we are working at developing ways to not only better equip them but to give them more say so in the way they live their lives," CNO said.

He also emphasized the impor-



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Planning Calendar

Tue Feb 8 Monthly Luncheon - Bangor Plaza

Tue Mar 8 Monthly Luncheon - Bangor Plaza

Tue Apr 12 Monthly Luncheon - Bangor Plaza

Tue May 10 Monthly Luncheon - Bangor Plaza
Sat May 21 Armed Forces Day: Parade in AM & Evening Gala at Admiral Theater

(CNO Discusses ... Continued from page 3)

tance of the new year to the Navy. “2005 is a key year for us,” Clark said. “We just had [the submarine USS} Virginia delivered. We had gone almost a decade without having a submarine delivered in this nation. We have a carrier coming that is going to improve the technological approach; our carrier design was over 40 years old. We have a DD(X) coming that is absolutely mind boggling in its capabilities.”

“We want our people to understand that yes, we want to execute today, but we need to work hard to create that future. It doesn’t happen all by itself.”

(From a story by JO1 Charles Ludwig, Navy News Service)



President Van Vlist thanks CAPT Derek Hesse; Commander, Submarine Squadron 19 for his SSGN Update at the January luncheon.



Now you can own your own “Special Mug” and you don’t have to be a speaker to get it. A limited supply of Council mugs will be on sale at monthly luncheons. Price is \$15.00