



NOW HEAR THIS

Winner 2002 & 2003
David M. Mackie
Award

Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council Navy League of the United States

Volume 57 Issue 1

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January 2005

Winner of the 2003 Donald M. Mackie Award!

2004 Council Officers

President	Van Vlist (360) 871-5751
Vice President	Roger Nance (360) 340-7203
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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

With the start of the New Year at hand and the 2004 holiday season but a memory we can all look forward to what 2005 will bring. Before we look ahead let us take a minute and reflect on what a great last 12 months we have had.

For me, being your council president has had many rewards. Just given the fact that you all had the confidence in my abilities to do the job should have been reward enough. However you afforded me the opportunity to meet some of the finest people this country has to offer. From Petty Officers to members of the Flag community I have yet to meet someone that did not make me proud to be a part of an organization such as the Navy League who offers them support in any fashion we can. One of the ways we have found to show them our gratitude is in the way we honor them. Our council has undertaken numerous ventures to do just that, take for example the Armed Forces Day Gala, it is an elegant affair with fabulous food, top notch entertainment, and camaraderie beyond compare. Or most recently we were involved in a Veterans Day Celebration unlike anything ever before in this community with standing room only. Our own parade float participated

(Continued on page 2)

January Luncheon

Date: January 11, 2005
Time: 11:30 AM
Place: Bangor Plaza, Naval Base
Kitsap-Bangor

Program: CAPT Derek H. Hesse, USN; Commander, Submarine Squadron 19 will speak about the SSGN conversion program.

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

RESERVATIONS ARE NECESSARY. ALL PARTICIPATANTS 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.

HELP NEEDED

*The Council **MUST** find a new editor for its award winning newsletter. Experience is **NOT** a prerequisite. This is the last issue of the newsletter that Bill Mullins will be able to edit. If you have an itch to be creative and a few free hours a month call Van Vlist or Roger Nance. Try it, you will like it.*

The most destructive force in the universe is gossip.

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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Assoc. Editor (Web Issue): Dave Shafer

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Now Hear This!

PO Box 626

Bremerton, WA 98337-0131

NOW HEAR THIS! is also available on the Council's web site at:

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

(President's Comments—Continued from page 1)
in several local parades garnering a 1st Place recognition every time, serving hot dogs at the Military Appreciation Day, and on and on and on.

It seems that each year this council raises the bar and we continue to exceed even our own expectations, but let us not forget that in order to do this it takes you, every one of you. There are many whom have made my job easy this last year and some of you are Al and Carol Meteney (whose guidance is invaluable), Ron Testa (truly a driving force), Vern Young (a supporter and mentor), Bill Mullins (multi Mackie Award winner), Dave Shafer (webmaster extraordinaire), Will Lent (1st Class Program Director), Mike and Myra Lovejoy (I'll volunteer for anything but Newsletter Editor), Earle and Sandra Smith (fundraising, AFD Gala coordinator, etc.,etc.,etc.), John Payne (float czar), Susie Seeger (council chaplain), and Marilyn Caldwell (who makes everything look easy). Thanks to all of you.

We are very fortunate to have waiting in the wings a group eager to take over. Starting with Roger Nance as your new President, watch this one closely because he has energy to burn, great ideas, and a desire to exceed. By this time next year we will have all benefited from his leadership. Larry Salter will again demonstrate his com-

mitment to the organization, only this year as the Vice President. I don't believe enough can be said about our Treasurer Marilyn Caldwell, not only does she do the books but also takes on the reservation and seating arranging for most all of our events (no easy feat). Annie Fields, as the Secretary she is outstanding, always positive, and is ready with a smile at anytime. We are so lucky to have as the incoming Judge Advocate Lou DuFresne. With Lou's knowledge, expertise, and willingness to proceed through the chairs we can all look forward to many years of quality leadership.

Well ladies and gentlemen my times up and its time for me to make way for the new blood, but don't think that you won't see me as I intend to stay active in the support of our maritime services and I encourage all of you to do the same.

God Bless the Troops, Stay Safe

Van

Senior Navy Officials Brief Defense Secretary On Shipbuilding Issues

Meeting Was Informational, Not About Decisions

The Navy's senior civilian and uniformed leadership recently met with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld regarding shipbuilding, but it was an informational briefing no decisions were made, sources told *Inside the Navy*.

Navy Secretary Gordon England, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark, Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Michael Hagee and Navy acquisition executive John Young were among the top naval officials present at the meeting with Rumsfeld Nov. 19.

Rumsfeld was accompanied by Defense Department Comptroller Tina Jonas and Ken Krieg, head of the DOD's office of program analysis and

evaluation.

In recent months, the Navy has been heavily criticized by Congress and the shipbuilding industry because the service's proposed fiscal year 2006 budget, which it submitted to OSD in August, would dramatically slash shipbuilding. The proposed budget would spend about \$6 billion to buy only four new vessels (*Inside the Navy*, Aug. 9, p1). Behind closed doors, Navy officials are also rethinking the size and composition of the fleet, moving toward a goal of fewer than 375 ships.

At the Nov. 19 meeting, England and Clark presented the Navy's briefing to Rumsfeld. The Navy did not request any decisions of Rumsfeld at the meeting and none were made, naval and industry sources said. The meeting was an informational briefing, not a discussion about how the Navy's shipbuilding plan might be revised, sources said.

Navy leaders explained the service is controlling manpower cost growth by reducing Navy end strength while increasing readiness funding to support forward-deployed forces. Further, Navy leaders explained the service is transforming ship maintenance and crew training to ensure the fleet is able to surge when needed. And Navy leaders noted each ship in the FY-06 budget is a part of a new class, only one of which is in the water (the service recently took delivery of the first Virginia-class submarine).

It was noted that ship investment is a Navy priority but that investment accounts are the only place the Navy can turn to pay large, unplanned bills. The Navy's proposed FY-06 shipbuilding plan was presented not as what the Navy Department wants, but as the logical result of new capabilities, overall affordability and funding rules that affect shipbuilding.

The naval source said the meeting went well, noting Rumsfeld was impressed enough to request a paper to discuss key points of the briefing at a higher level.

*By Christopher J. Castelli,
Inside the Navy, November 29, 2004*

2005 INSTALLATION DINNER



The Council's officers for 2005 will be installed on Thursday, January 20, 2005 at the Kitsap Conference Center on the Bremerton Waterfront

Guest speakers will be RDML Melvin G. Williams Jr., USN; Commander, Submarine Group Nine and Sheila McNeil, National President, Navy League of the United States



RDML Williams



Sheila McNeil

Festivities will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the Puget Sound Ballroom. Music by DreamWeaver

Dinner choices are Top Sirloin with Mushrooms and Shallot Butter or Sautéed Breast of Chicken with a Mushroom Madeira Sauce

Cost is \$35.00 per person

RSVP no later than January 10, 2005 to Marilyn Caldwell at 360.830.3525 or caldwellam@msn.com

**Mail checks to : Navy League Installation Dinner
PO Box 626
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Planning Calendar

Tue Jan 11 Monthly Luncheon - Bangor Plaza
Thu Jan 20 Installation Dinner - Kitsap Conference Center, Bremerton Waterfront

Tue Feb 8 Monthly Luncheon - Bangor Plaza

Tue Mar 8 Monthly Luncheon - Bangor Plaza



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

Reservists Called Up To Serve As Customs Inspectors

Roughly 450 reservists were called up on or around Nov. 30 for duty as customs inspectors in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The mobilized sailors will serve as Department of Defense customs inspectors at sea and in airports in Iraq and Kuwait, according to the Naval Expeditionary Logistics Support Force, based at Cheatham Annex in Williamsburg, Va.

The customs inspection mission, a new one for the Reserves, involves inspecting military gear being returned to the United States for disease-bearing dirt and smuggled contraband.

The mobilized sailors will take over the job from Air Force personnel who've performed the mission for the past year.

The reservists will be briefed and medically screened and then undergo six weeks of training at Cheatham Annex. The training will include a combat skills refresher course and customs inspection certification. The reservists are on one-year orders and could be extended for an additional year, officials said.

Reservists are being called up from about 60 Reserve centers nationwide.

Currently, about 485 reservists from NAVELSF Forward Group Bravo are deployed in Iraq and Kuwait.

(From navytimes.com)