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NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES
BREMERTON-OLYMPIC PENINSULA COUNCIL



Volume 64, Issue 06

June /July 2011

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Captain Pete Dawson Speaker for July 12 Luncheon

Each month, we try to bring you current information on what is happening locally and beyond with our military. For example, in June, James Van Antwerp shared the most recent innovations with Unmanned Undersea Vehicles and a review of what was happening with the special underwater robotic program for school age students.

In July, you will have a great opportunity to learn more about the person chosen to lead Naval Base Kitsap. Hopefully, we will learn how a young man from Corvallis, Oregon became deeply involved with submarines and how he has demonstrated his leadership capabilities to be chosen for such a responsible position as Commanding Officer for Naval Base

Kitsap. Hopefully, he will comment on his role as deputy chief of strategy for Multi-National Forces, Iraq and his personal

experiences on fast attack and nuclear submarines. As you can see, this will not be a typical brief on NBK.

I understand that Captain Dawson is also bringing someone who served as a Civilian Individual Augmentee in the war zones. She will share some of

her exciting story and we will learn more about what her title means.

As always, please contact Diane Garrett at CTC to make your reservations. Call 360 782-5500 and be certain to give Diane your birth date and correct spelling of your name as it appears on your drivers license. If you already have gate access, Diane does not need your birth date.



Reminder

Call CTC for your luncheon reservation
360-782-5500



President's Message

The Armed Forces Festival was a super success, thanks again to so many people. There was so much excitement from

the golf games to the races to the parade to the Navy League Gala. A little bit of drizzle certainly didn't stop all of the families and friends to participate in these great events.

This year we waited until the very last minute to learn that our Grand Marshall and Gala Keynote Speaker was Major General Richard P. Mills who has just returned from the front lines of Afghanistan. He was truly outstanding and shared the challenges and the successes of what our young volunteers are facing on a daily basis in Afghanistan. His remarks and photos clearly showed how they are helping to make a major difference in the quality of life for the women and children there.

In addition to the Navy League Gala, our council put together a great party for

the Senior Enlisted members of our area. The party was hosted by the Suquamish Tribe at Kiana Lodge and the Suquamish Clearwater Casino and Resort. We are already planning a repeat for next year.

On Memorial Day, Tim Katona planned another very successful Memorial Day service aboard the USS Turner Joy. Tim served as M.C. and RDML Hennegan delivered the Keynote address in honor of those who have given their lives in service to their country. About 130 people joined in the ceremony.

So many exciting events are being planned for the next few months. Check the newsletter and mark your calendar for some events that appeal to you. We have planned an evening meeting at the Sylvan Way Library with Kaj Ahlburg giving us the most recent info on Mideast terrorism to plans for a 7 day cruise in late September. Let us know if you have questions or comments.

Thank you so much for your active support of our military and their families.

Wheelchairs Needed

Some of our visitors to the Bremerton Marina who want to visit the Lone Sailor Memorial need a little extra assistance in getting down to the breakwater according to the Bremerton Marina Operation Manager, Kathy Garcia. So, if you have an extra wheelchair that is still in good operating condition and you would like to donate it to the Port of Bremerton, Kathy will provide storage and care for it.

Her telephone number is 360 373-1035 x221. Her office is right on the Boardwalk at 120 Washington Beach in Bremerton.



Navy Leaguers onboard the flight deck of USS Stennis (photo by Helen Miller)

USS Nebraska (SSBN 739) Wins the Olympic Bowl Trophy

Both the Blue and Gold crews were recognized as being the 2010 Trident Submarine for the Outstanding Performance Award. So, according to our 27 years of tradition, the crews were recognized at our May 21 Navy League Gala on Armed Forces Day with the presentation of the Olympic Bowl Trophy.

According to records from Sub Group 9, the USS Nebraska excelled in all warfare areas across both crews and combined to receive the Submarine Squadron 17 Battle Efficiency "G", the Strategic "S" (Gold), the Tactical Operations "T" (Blue), and the Communications "C" (Blue) Awards.

"The USS Nebraska is described as the most effective Trident submarine in the Pacific Northwest and an outstanding example of our nation's strategic forces. The two crews epitomized the high degree of camaraderie and commitment to making the Nebraska the best,



Susan Larsen 2011

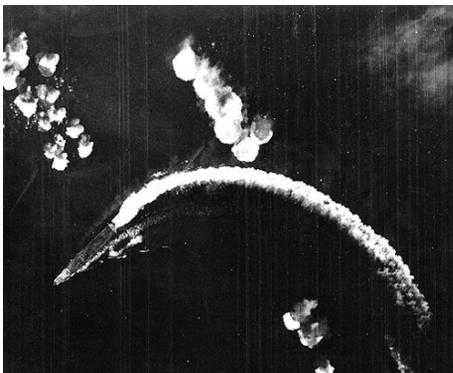
regardless of who had operational control over the ship, consistently demonstrated high morale, and achieved exceptional retention results."

We were proud to present the Trophy Bowl to such great crews. Congratulations!

Battle of Midway Remembered



Burning oil tanks on Sand Island, Midway, following the Japanese air attack



Japanese aircraft carrier Hiryu maneuvers to avoid air dropped bombs

American historians regard the Battle of Midway as comparable to the Battle of Trafalgar for the British and so this year, formal ceremonies were held around the country to commemorate this major turning point in the Pacific during World War II.

Rear Admiral Douglass Biesel, Commander, Navy Region Northwest said "this day is for Sailors to understand our heritage, the sacrifices, and really heroic examples that were exhibited at the Battle of Midway."

Bremerton shipyard played a major role in this battle. The Japanese had no idea that some of the ships damaged at Pearl Harbor would be repaired and ready for battle in the Pacific so quickly. While we were greatly outnumbered, we had great leadership, initiative and ingenuity.

During the battle, Japan lost four carriers, a heavy cruiser, three destroyers and 256 planes. The United States lost the Yorktown, a destroyer and 145 planes. This battle really showed the capabilities of aircraft carriers and the power of

airplanes.

The Ceremony held at NBK in Bremerton was very moving. The Navy Region Northwest Band greeted guests with patriotic music and performed throughout the ceremony. The beautiful and welcome blue sky was perfect as we watched a special fly-over. Captain Pete Dawson, Commanding Officer of NBK and Commander Christopher Carter, Executive Officer of NBK and Chaplain Don Biadog also participated in the ceremony with Commander Biesel. Special guest Rocky Hoffman USMC retired helped lay a wreath on the water to honor those who did not return.

There were just a few civilians attending the ceremony. Most of us had parents or other relatives who were actively engaged in WWII. For example, Will Lent and Dick Vlist's fathers were both at the Battle of Midway and both returned home safely.

Thank you, Naval Base Kitsap, for conducting such a memorable ceremony and for letting us participate.

Navy League Senior Enlisted Gathering (Cont'd pg. 5)



We were delighted and honored by the singing of men and women from the Suquamish Tribe. We are already looking forward to next year. (photo by Susan Larsen)



Local Senior Enlisted members and their spouses enjoy a traditional salmon bake provided by the Suquamish Tribe at Kiana lodge. (photo by Susan Larsen)



Susan Larsen 2011

Members of the Suquamish tribe welcome local Senior Enlisted at a very special event sponsored by the tribe and Clearwater Casino and Resorts. (photo by Susan Larsen)



Senior Enlisted take time to visit as they enjoy a beautiful traditional meal cooked by Jay Mills and other members of the Suquamish Tribe. (photo by Susan Larsen)



The Great Cris Larsen providing some closing comments at the Senior Enlisted Party held at Kiana Lodge. (photo by Susan Larsen)

Cruisin' on the High Seas



Our Judge Advocate, George Rose has put together a great 7 night cruise for our members.

We would board the Norwegian Cruise Ship, Norwegian Star on 24 September 2011 around noon in beautiful Vancouver, British Columbia; then visit Nanaimo, B.C.; Astoria, Oregon; a full day at sea; San Francisco, CA; another day at sea; then arrive in Los Angeles, CA on October 1.

The following is included with your choice of cabins:

1. A hotel stay in the Sea/Tac area the night prior to sailing. This includes 7 days of parking.
2. Transportation from the Sea/Tac hotel to Vancouver, B.C. arriving at the pier to board the ship.
3. The cruise

4. All taxes
5. Upon arriving at the Los Angeles pier on Oct 1, transportation to the Long Beach, CA airport
6. Air Fare, (Alaska Airlines) Long Beach, CA, back to Seattle, WA

Cabin prices include all the above and will not exceed the following prices.

- Inside cabin.....\$950.00
 Ocean View.....\$1150.00, picture window
 Balcony.....\$1350

You can choose all six options of the above, or you may not want to choose the flight back to Seattle or you may not want the hotel offer. If so, the cost of the hotel or the air would be deducted from the price of your choice of cabins.

Parker Cruise and Tours are handling reservations on this cruise for the

Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council of the Navy League. Remember to mention this when making reservations

These are the best locations currently available. The prices are approximate but will not exceed the numbers above unless the cruise line raises their rates as we get closer to the departure and a passenger books after the fare increase

For reservations contact:

Parker Cruise and Tours

Kelly Parker, GEO

Gregg Cole

425.822.2628

800.242.8262

425.765.4546 (Kelly Parker, cell).

Deposit for the Cruise is \$300.00 with the final payment on your cabin choice due on July 4, 2011. Fifty dollars of your deposit is non-refundable should you cancel prior to your trip.

A passport is required (best) or an enhanced drivers license (minimum).

For more information call George Rose, visit our website or call Parker Cruise

Submitted by George Rose

Editor's note

We have done several short cruises over the years and these are always fun. Bring relatives and friends. We have also invited our area councils to participate.

Carolyn

Armed Forces Parade / Navy League Gala



Board members and a Sea Cadet ride a SAFEBOAT in the 63rd Armed Forces Festival Parade with more than 20,000 people celebrating our military. (photo by Drake Evans)



Cris Larsen, the Armed Forces Festival organizer for the Bremerton Chamber of Commerce, shares a quick story with Carolyn Dankers, President of the Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council and chair of the Navy League Gala. (photo by Susan Larsen)



Retired Captain Will Lent, our 1984 Council President and program chair for the past 15 years, presenting the Olympic Bowl Trophy at the Navy League Gala. (photo by Susan Larsen)



Mr. Guy Stitt, past council president and Council Ambassador introducing the nephew of Major General Mills and thanking our generous sponsors. (photo by Susan Larsen)



This year we were delighted to host and honor more than 160 military and their spouses at our annual Gala held at the Admiral Theatre in downtown Bremerton. (photo by Susan Larsen)



Rear Admiral Douglass Biesel, Commander, Navy Region Northwest provides a warm welcome to everyone attending the Gala. (photo by Susan Larsen)



Swing Fever's 12 piece band provided great music for the Navy League Gala participants. (photo by Susan Larsen)



Mr. Larry Salter, National Director, past President of our council and current Navy League supporter at the local, regional and national level making a few comments after being recognized for his outstanding contributions. (photo by Susan Larsen)



Major General Richard P. Mills, the Parade Grand Marshall and keynote speaker for the Navy League Gala. He has just returned from the front lines of Afghanistan and shared incredible stories about our United States Marines in action. (photo by Susan Larsen)



Kitsap Battalion Sea Cadet, Petty Officer Ezeekial D. Oliver, after he has received the Theodore Roosevelt Award for his outstanding performance this year. Kitsap Battalion Commanding Officer, Robert Medal is just learning that he has also earned special recognition for his work. Left to right, Carolyn Dankers, CO Robert Medal, Greg Jose, former Youth Chair, Petty Officer Oliver and our keynote Speaker and Grand Marshall, Major General Richard P. Mills. (photo by Susan Larsen)

Planning Ahead

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

July 6 5:30 pm	Council Board Meeting Reid Real Estate, Silverdale
July 12 11 am	Luncheon, Captain Pete Dawson, CO of NBK, Speaker Bangor Conference Center (Trident Ball Room), Bangor
July 16 5:30 pm	USMC Sunset Parade, Olympic High School, public invited
July 23, 30	Museum of Flight Special Presentations on Centennial of Naval Aviation, Seattle, Boeing Field
July 30	Whaling Days, Silverdale
August 1 5:30-8 pm	Everett, Fleet Picnic Naval Base Everett
August 3	Ship Ride for Fleet Week, Seattle
August 1-5	SeaFair and Fleet Week, Seattle
August 3 5:30 pm	Council Board Meeting Reid Real Estate, Silverdale
August 9	Luncheon, USCG Birthday Celebration Bangor Conference Center (Trident Ballroom), Bangor
August 18 5:30 pm	Council Membership Party, All members welcome Mike Hancock's home

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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.