



# NOW HEAR THIS!

NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES  
BREMERTON-OLYMPIC PENINSULA COUNCIL



Volume 65, Issue 07

July 2012

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## July 10 Luncheon Speaker Captain Charles Baker

Captain Baker is one of our favorite people and we have hoped to have him share his stories with us for a long time. Captain Baker is the Commanding Officer of Naval Intermediate Maintenance Facility Pacific Northwest (NAVIMFPACNORWEST) at Bangor. This 1700 person command is responsible for the maintenance and modernization of the Pacific Fleet's SSBN force.

The Bangor site operates refit, piers, repair shops and a drydock located in the homeports of submarines, ships, and aircraft carriers in the Pacific Northwest. Bangor has expertise in hull, mechanical, electrical, electronics, and weapons systems repair: continually responding to meet the fleet's maintenance and repair needs with on-time, cost-effective and quality service.

Below is a bit of information about Captain Baker and how his previous assignments and training have helped to make him successful now.

Captain Baker enlisted in the Navy in 1976 and completed Naval Nuclear Power training in 1978. While enlisted he completed sea tours on USS THOMAS JEFFERSON (SSBN 618) and the USS LONG BEACH (CGN 9). Ashore he was an instructor at the Nuclear Power Training Unit, Idaho Falls, Idaho. He was commissioned in 1987.

As a commissioned officer, he served



on the USS MCKEE (AS 41), USS SIMON LAKE (AS 37), USS EMORY LAND (AS 39) and as Chief Engineer on the USS Nimitz (CVN 68). He has had ashore responsibilities in Groton, Connecticut, Point Loma in San Diego, California and Guantanamo, Cuba.

Captain Baker is authorized to wear the Meritorious Service Medal (4), Navy Commendation Medal (4), the Navy Achievement Medal and various individual unit and service awards. He earned a Master's Degree in International Business from University of San Diego, California in 2004.

For luncheon reservations for Tuesday, July 10, please email Roni Lane at [rlane@vu.com](mailto:rlane@vu.com) or call 360 692-3856 at ext 7002.

**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 (see page 2)**



## President's Message

At our recent Regional meeting in Portland we were asked how Navy League could help the large

number of returning veterans find jobs.

Ken Sparks and Pete Stiles of Lake Washington Council presented enough information for us to realize that there are no easy answers to a very complex challenge. But this challenge demands our attention as thousands of men and women will soon be leaving the military because of the drawdown and looking for new employment. We need to consider how we can help.

As members of Navy League, we can help tell the story of our active duty people and their families.

We can help educate potential employers about what people in today's military are really doing. As they develop excellent leadership skills in diverse environments. We can show them the types of complex equipment that they maintain and operate, the types of communication skills that they

need to perform their duties, and the types of schooling that they take on a regular basis. Our tours and monthly luncheons are a perfect opportunity for accomplishing this objective.

We can keep current regarding legislation on certification issues, educational opportunities, veteran preference issues and the many other issues that are being discussed by having our legislators or their aides talk with our members and provide us with material to share or by attending meetings and then sharing those discussions with our members.

We can share the great articles found in Seapower magazine with neighbors and friends. We can share these ideas with the other organizations to which we belong and develop a strong ripple effect that can make a real difference.

The above ideas are part of our mission statement and goals. The good news is that we are already doing them, but now we need to be more focused on delivering the message that our current military are strong, well trained and will be an asset to the workforce and the local community.

## Notes on SEALS from Jack James, former SEAL and Speaker at our May Luncheon

Mr. James asked that the following information be passed on to our members.

1. There are no Active Duty SEALS stationed at any of our local Installations. However Teams do deploy here to train fairly routinely. Additionally, there is a Naval Special Warfare (SEAL) cold weather training detachment in Kodiak, Alaska.

2. In regards to the issue of "stolen valor" if anyone would like a name check on a BUD/S training graduate, please call or e-mail Jack James at 360 315-5991 or [jack.b.james@navy.mil](mailto:jack.b.james@navy.mil).

## PSNS and IMF Background Keeping America's Navy #1 in the World

The history of the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and the Intermediate Maintenance Facility reflects the constantly changing need for global readiness. During World War I, the Navy Yard constructed ships, including 25 subchasers, seven submarines, two minesweepers, seven sea-going tugs, and two ammunition ships, as well as 1,700 small boats. During WWII, the Shipyard's primary effort was the quick repair of battle damage to ships of the U.S. Fleet and those of the Allies.

Following WWII, the Shipyard engaged in an extensive program of modernizing carriers, including converting conventional flight decks to angle decks. During the Korean Conflict, the Shipyard was engaged in the activation of ships. In the late 1950's, the Shipyard entered an

era of new construction with the building of a new class of guided missile frigates.

USS SCULPIN (SSN 590) was the first nuclear powered submarine worked on at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in 1965.

In 1990, the U.S. Navy authorized a program to recycle nuclear powered ships at PSNS. Approximately 6% of the Shipyard's workload involves inactivation, reactor compartment disposal, and recycling of ships. The Shipyard has pioneered an environmentally safe method of deactivating and recycling nuclear-powered ships. This process places the U.S. Navy in the role of being the world's only organization to design, build, operate, and recycle nuclear powered ships.

On May 15, 2003 Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and the Naval Intermediate Facility, Pacific Northwest, located at Bangor, Bremerton and Everett, WA con-

solidated into one maintenance activity-creating PSNS and IMF. The consolidation improves fleet readiness by allowing the Navy to accomplish the highest priority, real-time ship maintenance requirements while achieving the most maintenance effort possible for the tax dollar.

The Northwest Regional Maintenance Center as it is now called, is one of the few regions that can provide maintenance for every class of Navy Vessel. The sharing of expertise and resources between the Bremerton and Bangor sites provides the Navy with a streamlined approach to maintenance and allows for the savings to be reinvested in the fleet.

PSNS and IMF is one of Washington State's largest industrial installations.

This information is primarily from the website of the Naval Sea Systems Command, Washington Navy Yard, D.C.

# Cmdr Erik Neal Receives “Disability Champion” Award for Work with Wounded Warriors

Cmdr. Erik Neal, Chief Staff Officer, Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) Division Keyport, was recognized as a Disability Champion at the 2012 Disability Matters Awards in Newark, N.J., April 18.

Neal has been a stand-out in the Navy community for his groundbreaking work helping dozens of Wounded Warriors find employment at NUWC Keyport and other Naval Sea Systems (NAVSEA) commands. This has been beneficial not only for Wounded Warriors and their families but for the commands that hire former military personnel who bring their experience, knowledge and commitment to the federal workplace.

In his letter of recommendation endorsing Neal’s selection, Vice Adm. Kevin McCoy, Commander, NAVSEA, pointed out that Neal not only helps find employment for Wounded Warriors but even volunteered at the Second Annual Warrior Games held at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado last May.

“His enthusiasm for Wounded Warriors is contagious and he has been instrumental in exceeding the Wounded Warrior hiring goals set for NUWC Keyport,” McCoy said. He also commended Neal’s work with the Joint Base Lewis-McChord Army Warrior Transition Battalion, the Department of Defense Operation Warfighter Program, Navy Safe Harbor and the U.S. Marine Corps’ Wounded Warrior Regiment at Camp Lejeune.

“He is gifted with a natural networking ability,” according to McCoy.

Neal has worked extensively with Department of Defense human resources professionals to find opportunities for interns and those being



discharged. Among those he credits with the success of NUWC Keyport’s efforts and believes are equally deserving of the award are Carol Blakeley with the region’s Human Resources Service Center and Carlos de la Torre with NUWC Keyport’s Workforce Services Division.

“Helping Wounded Warriors find career opportunities is the least we can do for our seriously wounded, ill and injured service members that have sacrificed so much in the defense of our nation,” according to Neal. “I feel it is my duty to do everything within my authority to assist them. They deserve nothing less.”

Neal has also located internship opportunities for soldiers in the Warrior Transition Battalion at Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

“Cmdr. Neal’s recognition is extremely well-deserved. His work in putting our soldiers into naval internships gives them training in marketable skills, work experience and networking in a new career field, and

eases their transitions to civilian life,” said Lt. Col. Jason Wing, commander, Joint Base Lewis-McChord’s Warrior Transition Battalion. “With a majority of our ill, injured and wounded soldiers leaving the Army, his support in making their transitions successful is invaluable.”

This is the first year that the Disability Champion award has been given. The award was presented at the Sixth Annual Disability Matters Awards Banquet and Conference in Newark, N.J.

Nominees were judged based on the following criteria: influences and empowers others, serves as a role model for change, is continually learning, cultivates the inclusion of people with disabilities, innovates and takes risks, holds themselves and others accountable for disability, and external leadership involvement.

*Silvia Klatman  
Public Affairs Officer  
Naval Undersea Warfare Center  
Division, Keyport*

# USS Bremerton Visits Bremerton

The beginning of several days of fun was at 5:30 AM on Friday when the telephone rang with CDR Caleb Kerr letting us know that they were coming in and were about 5 miles north of the house. We got outside & were thrilled to see the Bremerton sliding south in the early morning calm. During the docking at the pier, we had a large banner that said "Welcome USS Bremerton" to hold up for our guys. After CDR Kerr spoke for a few minutes and the Mayor & others welcomed them officially, there was a bit of time to get all things squared away, then we all went up to the Sam Adams pub on base where the Navy League had arranged food & drink for the crew. It was great to chat with them & see them enjoying all they could hold.

Later that afternoon and evening, there was a reception at RADM Hennenagan's house for the community & Navy leaders to meet with the folks from the "Bad Fish." RDML Hennenagan is the Commander of Sub Group 9, which is the command for the Submarines here.

Sat AM, one of the highlights for me was to meet with the van carrying the Sea Gals, (the Seattle Seahawks cheerleaders), and escort them to the base & to the boat. They were VERY impressed & thoroughly enjoyed the tour. They took all the time anyone wanted to sign photos & have pictures taken with the guys. They were patient & very classy. I think the sailors & the Sea Gals both felt very rewarded by the experience. One of the Sea Gals later wrote that this was a day she would remember for the rest of her life. They were very well impressed with the quality of young men defending our country and appreciated the sacrifices made on a daily basis by the crew & the families who support them.

Later that day the first of 3 daily tours began, arranged by the Navy League. We had many former submariners, defense workers, Navy Leaguers and patriotic civilians who were eager to see the boat & meet the fellows. On Sat, Sun & Mon, there were tours each day of about 20-25 people, many of whom said that this was the best submarine tour they've ever had and that the guys giving the tours were more easy going than most & made them feel comfortable without being rushed through things. There was universal high praise for the USS Bremerton & it's crew.

I was able to tell each group before bringing them to the boat that, although the 698 is the oldest submarine in the fleet, it was still winning awards for being the best.

Sunday some of us were very fortunate to be able to have a delicious lunch aboard. After the tour on Sunday, many folks from the boat went to the Mayor's office for a reception, some welcoming & kind words from the Mayor, the head of the Puget Sound Naval Bases Association, the Navy League President and comments from CDR Kerr. More food & drink was available there. Afterwards, we went up to the top floor where the Mayor's actual office is and they were shown the 2 ton bell from the original USS Bremerton Heavy Cruiser from WWII, as well as newspaper articles about it's port visit at the end of the war, and new material about the "Bad Fish." This is all on permanent display in front of a window overlooking the town & shipyard.

Monday on the fantail of the USS Turner Joy, a Vietnam era destroyer on Bremerton's waterfront, there was a Navy League sponsored Memorial Day service which was attended by CDR Kerr (photo in the Navy newspaper). Monday morning some of the

crew went to the local Veteran's Home to help with wheelchair escort duty as part of the Community Relations program. Tours again at 1. The Navy League President, Carolyn Dankers, other Navy Leaguers and Byron & Pat hosted some of the wardroom folks at Byron Faber's house for dinner.

Tuesday there was a larger contingent of the crew who helped the Bremerton Parks Department beautify the area near the Navy Yard entrance as their Community Relations contributions. Tuesday afternoon, many of the crew got out to a local watering hole named McClouds for food, drink, pool, darts, and to see some of the Corvettes & one lone Ferrari that Corvette Club members had brought for them. Many of our Navy League folks were able to chat extensively with the crew. Of course, lots of the guys spent their liberty time going to Seattle or to the Bremerton Harbor Festival just outside the base along the town's waterfront. They may well need to rest up on their way back to Hawaii!

After the great privilege of spending these days interacting with the crew of the USS Bremerton, the community developed a deep respect & admiration for them. We appreciate all they do for our nation, and it gives us hope for the future with such high quality young folks coming along. We wish we could keep them all here & have the families move to our community. The Navy may think they own the USS Bremerton, but we feel that it is OUR boat & these are OUR boys.

WE had very fond feelings for them as we watched them go by the house on their way out Puget Sound to the Sea.

*Submitted by Byron Faber,  
Navy League Liaison for  
the USS Bremerton*



*Above: USS Bremerton crew at Mayor Patty Lent's Reception.*



*Above: Navy League members and friends enjoying the USS Bremerton tour.*



**Join us for our Summer Fun Event**

**Saturday, July 14, 2012 at the Seattle Seahawks Virginia Mason Athletic Center, VMAC**

On Lake Washington, 12 Seahawks Way, Renton, WA 98056  
4:00pm – 7:30pm

**The evening will include:**

- Presentation of the Colors by the Liberty High School JROTC**
- A Tour of the Seahawk's Business Operations Center & Practice Facility**
- Silent Auction of Seattle Seahawks and Sounders Donated Sports Items**
- Greeting and Welcome by the Seattle Seahawks "Sea Gals"**
- Buffet Dinner provided by Longhorn BBQ**
- Complimentary Wine and Beer**

**Our keynote speakers will be:**

**RADM Bob Hennegan**  
**Commander, Submarine Group Nine**  
**Topic: TBD**

**Fred Smith**  
**Director, Business Development, Navy & Marine Corps Programs, The Boeing Company**  
**Topic: Comments and an update on the Navy's new P-8A Poseidon Multi-Mission Aircraft that will replace the Navy's P-3 Orion**

**Schedule:**

No-Host Social Hour: 4:00pm    VMAC Tours: 4:00pm    Buffet Dinner: 5:00pm  
Program: 6:00pm    Adjourn: 7:30pm

The cost per person is \$40 before July 12<sup>th</sup> or \$45 at the door.

Please make your reservations by going to [www.lakewashnlus.org](http://www.lakewashnlus.org) or use the form below.

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Mail in registration and support for the Lake Washington Council Dinner by July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Name (1) \_\_\_\_\_

Name (2) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner(s) at \$40 per person \_\_\_\_\_

Donate a dinner for a Sailor/Coastie/Student (\$40 each) \_\_\_\_\_

Tax-deductible additional donation \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: LWC, PO 183, Medina WA 98039

# Tour of USS John C. Stennis



Thirty-two Navy League members and guests, including several children, were welcomed to a tour of the Nimitz class carrier USS John C. Stennis CVN 74 on June 22, 2012. After a welcome and overview briefing we broke into two groups and visited the hangar deck, forecastle, flight deck (which was sporting a newly completed resurfacing), flight deck control with the “Ouija board,” the navigation bridge and the ship’s store. We also walked the “chow line” and joined the crew for lunch in one of the four mess decks. When the ship is under way

15,000 meals are served daily!

Although past tours have often been during times of extensive industrial activity, this time the primary activity was the loading of supplies and provisions for a qualification and training cruise which was to embark in three days. Stennis will operate off the California coast and take on the air wing during this time.

Our sincere thanks to the officers and crew of USS John C. Stennis for their gracious hospitality and to Byron Faber for another great tour.

*Submitted by Norman Marten*

## Planning Ahead

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

July 4	Independence Day
July 9	Welcome to Everett (Ship homecoming). Everett Base 8:30 a.m. You will need base access for this event.
July 10	Monthly luncheon-Captain Baker, CO of IMF, Bangor Doors open at 11, program begins at 11:45 a.m. Lunch is \$12. Call 360 692-3856. ext 7002 for reservations
July 11	Monthly Board Meeting, Kitsap Regional Library, on Sylvan Way, East Bremerton, 5:30 p.m.

### 2012 COUNCIL OFFICERS

President	Carolyn Dankers 360.769.7415 <a href="mailto:c.dankers@wavecable.com">c.dankers@wavecable.com</a>
Vice President	Tim Katona 360.674.2628 <a href="mailto:mayflower616@donobi.net">mayflower616@donobi.net</a>
Secretary	Heidi Hottinger
Treasurer	Ruth Bond
Judge Advocate	George Rose
Immediate Past President	Carolyn Dankers

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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.**