



# Now Hear This!



Navy League of the United States

Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council

Volume 63, Issue 6

June 2010

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## COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS

- ★ Karen Ebersole
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- ★ Mike Hancock
- ★ Greg Jose
- ★ Will Lent
- ★ Mark Lowe
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## Admiral Symonds Gives Farewell Luncheon Presentation

Plan now to attend the June 8 monthly luncheon to bid farewell to Admiral Symonds, Commanding Officer of Navy Region Northwest. Admiral Symonds will be retiring at the end of June and leaving for Arizona.

Admiral Symonds will share his exciting story of commanding America's newest super carrier CVN 76 through the narrow inland waterway of Chile's Magellan Straits. The South American winter transit in June 2004 saved navigating through several hundred miles of storm driven seas by bypassing Cape Horn on the trip from the East Coast to San Diego.

The Chilean Government not only granted permission to cross through the Straits of Magellan but, in fact, invited the



USS Ronald Reagan to be the first Nimitz Class Carrier to transit the fiord laced waterway which is the second largest salmon "fish farm" region in the world.

The History Channel documented this significant event and fortunately for us we can learn firsthand from our friend Admiral Symonds about his role as the USS Reagan's Commanding Officer negotiating this

intriguing waterway

It may be our last opportunity to hear him speak and for us to show him how much we appreciate his personal support of our council. Please make reservations early with CTC by calling 360.782.5500. Bring a friend and enjoy this special "don't miss" event.

*Adapted from Gary S. Gunderson*

## Upcoming Events - Save the Date

- ★ May 31 – Memorial Day on the USS Turner Joy
- ★ June 1,2,3 – Navy League National Meeting, Arlington, Virginia
- ★ June 3 – Last day to make lunch reservations. Call CTC — 782-5500
- ★ June 8 – Farewell to Admiral Symonds-luncheon, Bangor Plaza
- ★ June 9 – Keyport Tour
- ★ June 26 – Fathoms O' Fun Parade, Port Orchard, 6 p.m.



## President's Message

Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus visited our region in April.

To facilitate his "All Hands" call in the Bangor Plaza we needed to cancel our April luncheon and Admiral Symonds was kind enough to reschedule, as our guest speaker, to the next regular luncheon date on Tuesday June 8th. The Seattle Council hosted an excellent reception for the SECNAV, where he stressed the very high value of our Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, NBK Bangor and Naval Air Station Whidbey Island.

Regional base visits are made by congressional and military leaders for Command Briefings but equally important to "test public support", private sector capability to provide skilled workers for our ship yards and bases including the level of community infrastructure, retail services and family housing.

U.S. Navy presence in San Francisco Bay is virtually gone and its former 5,000 member Navy League has shrunk to 500. Lack of public support has been picked up by their political leaders and the shrinking assets have been shifted to regions with the strong congressional and community support like Puget Sound and San Diego, however, do you remember when there was a military presence in Seattle?

Our Bremerton Council was recently awarded for the "Highest Percentage of Growth" in the Northwest Region again because we actively pursue visibility in our community as an advocate for

each of our national sea services. Your membership shows a "measurable" level of strength and our perceived ability to support community resolve. Attending Navy League events demonstrates a clear vote of confidence which is counted both locally and nationally.

"We bring people together"... with monthly luncheons, base tours and special events to share the value and critical importance of our mission in the public arena.

Please join us on June 8th for our farewell luncheon with Rear Admiral Jim Symonds, Commander Navy Region Northwest. Let's thank him for his terrific support of our Council.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Gary S. Gunderson*

## Memorial Day Ceremony

Everyone is invited to attend the Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday, May 31st, 10 a.m. on the fantail of the historic ship, The USS Turner Joy.

The ship is permanently moored at the Bremerton Harborside Marina near the ferry terminal.

The Navy League of the United States, Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council, sponsors the ceremony. Council President, Gary Gunderson will serve as Master of Ceremonies and Rear Admiral Joseph P. Aucoin, Commander Carrier Strike Group 3 will be the guest speaker.

The Kitsap Battalion Naval Sea Cadets will present colors. A memorial wreath will be laid in honor of those who have fallen. VFW Ceremonial Guard will perform taps and the rifle salute.

Coffee and donuts will be provided in the Turner Joy crew's mess after the ceremony.

Seating is limited so plan on getting there early.

*Submitted by Tim Katona*

## Volunteering – Making a Difference

Last month, President Gary Gunderson wrote about the importance of volunteering in our communities. On June 23, the United Way of Kitsap County is coordinating various projects throughout Kitsap County ranging from light construction to painting and landscaping. These projects can all be completed in one day.

Approximately 500 to 700 volunteers are expected to participate and in the past, at least 50 % of those volunteers have been active duty military. Wouldn't it be great to work with them and help make our community a better place at the same time? Go to the United Way of Kitsap County, Day of Caring website and look at the various projects. You can sign up online or call their office in Bremerton.

The kick off is at the Kitsap County Fairgrounds, Presidents Hall. Each volunteer receives a complimentary T-Shirt and brown bag lunch.



*Council President Gary Gunderson leads the way in volunteering.*

# Navy Region Northwest Recognizes “Friends of the Navy”

Admiral Symonds, Commanding Officer of Navy Region Northwest, invited citizens from around the Puget Sound area to a very special event in Everett to recognize and honor people who had been especially supportive of the Navy in our region.

Both our immediate past president, David Thomas and our current president, Gary Gunderson were among this small group of individuals who were honored that day. They both received a beautiful plaque and the following statements were read:

Captain Dave Thomas, USN, Retired; Past President, Navy League of the United States, Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council:

For extraordinary support of the Navy, sailors and their families in the Pacific Northwest. Captain Thomas is a local Bremerton businessman: the

former commanding officer of Naval Submarine Base Bangor; and immediate past president of the Navy League. While Navy League President, he was instrumental in bringing the Lone Sailor Statue to Bremerton and garnering its placement at the Bremerton Waterfront. He and his wife, Alice, continue to be staunch supporters of sailors in the Bremerton area and epitomize the “Navy family.” His commitment and extraordinary contributions to the military community are most commendable and merit this special recognition, as well as the appreciation and thanks of the United States Navy.

Mr. Gary Gunderson, President, Navy League of the United States, Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council.

For extraordinary support of the Navy, sailors and the families in the Pacific Northwest. Gary Gunderson

is the President of the Navy League Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council, but he is better known in the Navy Region Northwest as “Mr. Sea Cadet.” Gary’s tireless efforts and countless hours in organizing and transporting Sea Cadets, Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Course Cadets and Tribal Youth Outreach participants has been simply incredible. Gary also manages several youth program initiatives including base visits and Navy-Familiarization ship rides at Seattle Sea Fair. His impact on our “future sailors” has been direct and inspirational. His commitment and extraordinary contributions to the military community are most commendable and merit this special recognition, as well as the appreciation and thanks of the United States Navy.

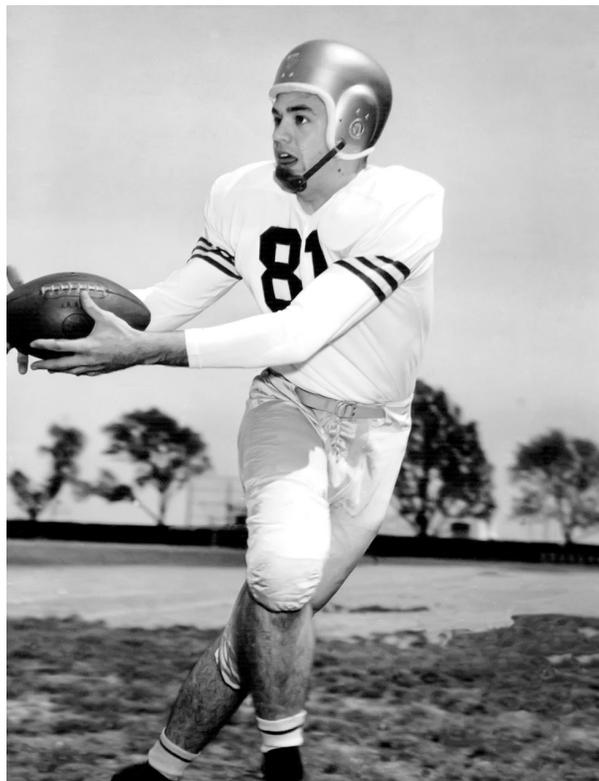
Navy Region Northwest

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## Earle Smith to be Inducted into Hall of Fame

On March 16th, W. Earle Smith, Jr. received a phone call from the “Mobile Sports Hall of Fame” committee, Mobile, Alabama. Earle was selected from a total of 73 nominees to be inducted into their sports hall of fame 2010. Past inductees include baseball great Hank Aaron and legendary basketball coach Eddie Stanky and football coach Vince Dooley. Earle’s own father, W. Earle Smith, Sr. was an inductee back in 1994. So, they will be the first father/son inductees.

Earle started out young as an outstanding athlete. At the state level, Earle was named the “Alabama Junior Golf Champion Runner-up” in 1949. He was named “Mobile’s Outstanding Amateur Athlete” in 1951. He earned a total of 14 letters in various sports during his high school years.



He played first string football at the U.S. Naval Academy for three years. He still holds the record for the most touchdowns by a tight-end in an Army-Navy Football Game (2). Naval Academy football was very competitive back then. He played on the team that best Ole Miss in the Sugar Bowl, 21-0 and they beat Notre Dame, 33-7. He has the “game ball” for that Notre Dame game.

The same year he served as Captain of the Naval Academy Football team, he was ranked as their #1 golfer. He has enjoyed a zero handicap twice in his life, once in high school and once at the Naval Academy. He played catcher on the Naval Academy baseball team and was invited to try out with the St. Louis Cardinals.

Congratulations to Navy League Board member, Earle Smith!

## Members of the Sea Services join Council President



The 62nd Annual Dignity Memorial Armed Forces Day Parade was bigger and better than ever before according to the planners. There were more entries and entries from farther away for this parade. The weather was cooperative as an estimated 10,000 children, parents, grandparents and others joined the festivities.

Our council is always proud to participate in any event that honors our military. The Armed Forces Day

parade is certainly a prime example of everyone gathering together to say thank you to those who serve.

This year, Sailors and Marines joined our Council President, Gary Gunderson, aboard a 33-foot Safe Boat, provided by Safe Boat International. We will also participate in the Fathoms O' Fun Parade in downtown Port Orchard on June 26 and Whaling Days in Silverdale on July 24.

## RDML Frank Caldwell and the Great White Fleet



During the extended Armed Forces Festival activities, Rear Admiral Frank Caldwell shared the story of the Great White Fleet's trip from the East Coast to Puget Sound and then to Japan and return as told from the perspective of one of his relatives who actually participated in this historical adventure.

The Kitsap Historical Society hosted this well attended event and put together an excellent display of Great White Fleet articles documenting the Fleets' time here in Puget Sound in 1906.

*photo by Gary Beanland*



Rear Admiral Jim Symonds shows surprise when Gary "pops up" a something-to-remember-us- by gift from our council. Both he and his wife Anne play golf and a Navy League golf umbrella will be handy when they return to the Northwest for visits.



RDML Frank Caldwell, Commanding Officer of Submarine Group Nine, presents the Olympic Bowl to CDR Joe Nosse CO Kentucky (Gold) and CDR Ed Fernandize CO (Blue).

# Armed Forces Day Events



*“The Great Cris Larson” Armed Forces Day Chairman for the Chamber of Commerce receives a well earned award for his untiring work benefitting the entire community.*



*Navy League Ambassador Guy Stitt catches former president Will Lent “off guard” with a surprise gift of an antique bowl honoring him for creating an Olympic Bowl Award for the top Trident Submarine in Submarine Group Nine. The twenty six year tradition was carried on by the USS KENTUCKY for 2009. Guy, former council president was equally surprised with an “Appreciation Award” from president Gary Gunderson.*



*The young Armed Forces Ambassadors are smiling and waving as they enjoy their ride in the 1931 Bremerton Fire truck. Our Council is the proud sponsor of one of these fine young people and we wish them well as they head for college this fall.*



*Mr. Tom Danaher, Naval Base Kitsap Public Affairs Officer, receives a well deserved award for his long time community support and of our Bremerton-Olympic council.*

# Council Honors Naval Base Kitsap Awardees

The following were recognized and honored at our May luncheon: **MASN Jacob Widener** – Kitsap Blue Jacket of the Quarter, First Quarter of 2010. **MA2 (SW/AW) Jessica Myrick** – Kitsap Junior Sailor of the Quarter, First Quarter of 2010. **CSI (SW) Stephen Harris** – Kitsap Senior Sailor of the Quarter, First Quarter 2010

Each awardee was introduced and we were able to hear a few of their special accomplishments. Then each person

was presented with a plaque provided by Patriot's Landing, a gift certificate to a local restaurant and a photo sitting provided by Hudson Photography.

These awards were presented by Alice Thomas, Awards Chair with the help of her husband, Captain David Thomas, USN (ret), and Past Council President.

*Submitted by Alice Thomas*



*Sailors of the Year and Blue Jacket Awardees are congratulated by VADM Kevin McCoy while receiving a standing ovation from the dinner guests.*



*Naval Base Kitsap provides strong support for their sailors (Left to right) Commander, Jim Travers, CSC Marcello, Peg Harris (spouse of Stephen Harris, CSI (SW) Stephen Harris, MASN Jacob Widener, MA2 (SW/AW) Jessica Myrick, Chief Lucas, Command Master Chief Fahrney and Captain Olson, Commanding Officer, Naval Base Kitsap.*



Carolyn Dankers and Susan Larsen have fun meeting people at the Military Appreciation Day at the Fairgrounds to share the Navy League story.

## Change of Mailing Address

All mail for our council should be sent to :

**Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council**  
 Post Office Box 5719  
 Bremerton, WA 98312

## Exciting Future Tours

Our great tour director, Byron Faber, announces the following tours are being planned. Mark your calendar and make your reservation now!

### June 9 - Keyport Base Tour

8:45 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Meet at Naval Undersea Museum parking lot.

Tour limit- 35 people

Contact Doug Carpenter 206 842-1084 or

[PBRfromnearnfear@aol.com](mailto:PBRfromnearnfear@aol.com)

Special notes: No cameras. Cell phones are to be powered off during the tour

Names are required of all participants at least a week ahead of tour\*

### July 9 & 16 - Safeboat Factory Tour-Port Orchard

Tour limit - 6 people

We will probably do 2 or more tours

Contact Byron Faber 360 638-1235 or

[byfaber@centurytel.com](mailto:byfaber@centurytel.com)

Special notes: more details available later.

### July 26- US Coast Guard -Seattle

9 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Tour limit-35 people

Cost: Lunch-\$10 (includes inviting Coast Guardsmen to join us for lunch)

Contact Byron Faber 360.638-1235 or [byfaber@centurytel.com](mailto:byfaber@centurytel.com)

Special notes: This is an active all day tour that might include a boat ride!

### August – Indian Island Tour

Contact Byron Faber 360.638-1235 or [byfaber@centurytel.com](mailto:byfaber@centurytel.com)

Special notes: more details available later.

### September – Museum of Flight - Seattle

Contact Byron Faber 360.638-1235 or [byfaber@centurytel.com](mailto:byfaber@centurytel.com)

Special notes: more details available later.

### October 4 – NAS Whidbey Island Tour

Contact Byron Faber 360.638-1235 or [byfaber@centurytel.com](mailto:byfaber@centurytel.com)

Special notes: more details available later.

\*We need names of all attendees ahead of time for base access. If not a U.S. Citizen, please let Byron know ahead of time as different procedures are required for access.

*Submitted by Byron Faber*

## Planning Ahead

May 31	Memorial Day Services USS Turner Joy, 10 a.m. Bremerton Harborside
June 2	Council Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Reid Real Estate, Silverdale
June 3	Luncheon Registration Deadline Call CTC 360.782.5500
June 8	Admiral Symonds Farewell lunch, 11 a.m. Bangor Plaza, Bangor
June 9	Keyport Tour, 9 a.m. Naval Underwater Museum, Parking lot,
June 23	Day of Caring, United Way
June 26	Fathoms O' Fun, Port Orchard, 6 p.m.

**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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