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NEW MEMBERS

Welcome Aboard

- ★ Bruce and Kristine Danielson
- ★ Ms. Norma Parker
- ★ Louis H. Mejia
- ★ Donald G. Vanlue



President's Corner

Our biggest month of the year is upon us. The month of May requires us, as members, to pool our resources, time, and efforts together. Armed Forces Day Gala is on Saturday the 21st of May at 5:00. This event brought me into the fold of The Navy League as it supports and recognizes those we support, the sea services, the various regional commands and spouses, guest speakers such as Congressman Dicks and Admiral Balisle to name a few, and with the live entertainment the council provides, its great fun. Armed Forces Day made me proud to be a citizen

of Bremerton. Secondly, on May 30th we have a Memorial Day Service on the Turner Joy which Stan Mack has been coordinating. Mark you calendars.

Our fund raising efforts and RSVPs for those who have responded are going well. I neglected to place additional raffle inserts in the April newsletter. However, they were in the march newsletter and I can't emphasize enough the value of generating funds from it. As a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting not only the active duty but also The Sea Cadets and NJROTC, the raffle is a great way to support them. If you are feeling generous and can't attend the event we are always open to receiving donations. Please speak with the council officers or board members if you would like to assist with this months activities.

(continued on page 2)

Announcements

- 1) Please note that the new monthly luncheon cost is \$12.00 per person.
- 2) The board has discussed and agreed upon going to electronic handling of our newsletter. The March luncheon attendees agreed and so we are hard at work converting from mailing to emailing. Our goal is to reduce mailing approximately 680 newsletters (which costs about \$4,000 not including man hours) to less than 50% of this number as soon as possible. The added savings to our community account, as well as the ease of sending it electronically, will greatly benefit our League. Please provide us your email address as soon as possible. **If you want to opt out of receiving the newsletter by email, please notify us of your choice.**
- 3) We are currently working on our 2005 Navy League Membership Directory. **This directory is for Navy League use only and not to be distributed outside of our membership.** A form updating your mailing information and email information will be circulating. Please fill it out and return it to either Marilyn Caldwell or mail it to our PO Box 636/Bremerton, WA 98337 as soon as possible. **Again, if you want to opt out of this directory, please notify us of your decision.**
- 4) Roger Nance/President, is heading the committee for the new directory and is accepting advertising information and dollars. If you are interested in advertising, please contact him as soon as possible 360) 340-7203 or roger_nance@countrywide.com. Cost to be determined.
- 5) The Gala is fast approaching and seating is limited. Please get your reservations in to Marilyn Caldwell at 360) 830-3525 as soon as possible. Mail your checks to the post office box.

NOW HEAR THIS!

is the official news-letter of the Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council of the Navy League of the United States. It is published monthly and mailed to all members.

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(President's Corner - continued from page 1)

Lee Fritchman, with Naval Criminal Investigative Services was the guest speaker for the April luncheon. Wow! Very interesting and nothing like the TV series. NCIS has 1200 agents globally compared to the FBI's 11,000. Special Agent Fritchman's descriptions of Robert Mueller's reaction when he informed him of their numbers was eye opening given the tasks and challenges that NCIS is faced with. I personally was educated to the fact that these agents aren't active duty or employed by the Dept of the Navy but are civil service. NCIS is currently ramping up their efforts with recruiting in general and specifically those with foreign language backgrounds that we desperately need. Most importantly, with the creation of The Homeland Defense position, it is comforting to know that NCIS is now receiving and coordinating its efforts in the field and the sharing of information with other agencies at the local, national and international level.

The Submarine Ball was on Friday, April 15th. A good time was had by all and the solemn but proud recognition of the submarines, sailors and crews of those lost at sea was individually recognized for all submarines since the inception of the fleet.

I will see you on Tuesday, May 10th for lunch when Capt Ervin and Lt Divano will speak to the latest technology on submarine rescue.

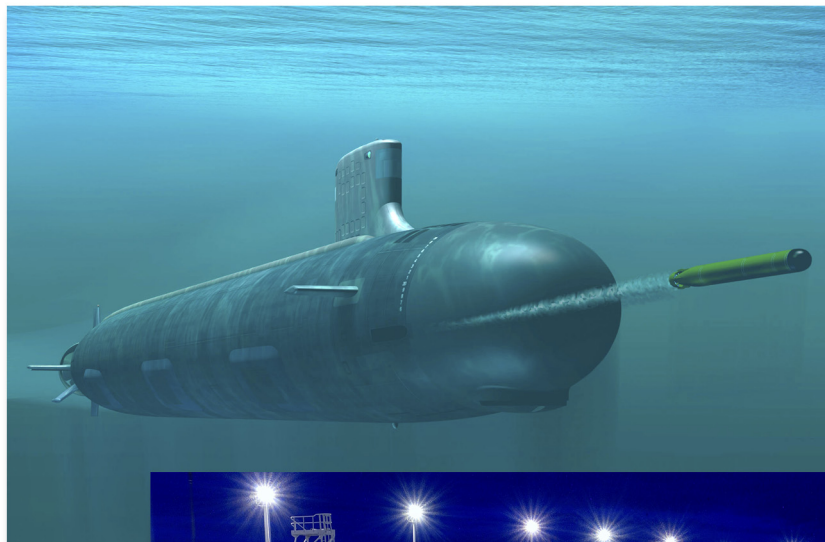
Roger

Northrop Grumman Launches USS Texas

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., April 11, 2005 -- Northrop Grumman Corporation reached a construction milestone on April 9 by launching the second Virginia-class submarine, Texas (SSN 775). Northrop Grumman's Newport News sector is teamed with General Dynamics Electric Boat to build the first 10 ships of the Virginia class. Current plans call for 30 Virginia-class submarines in the fleet. The first ship of the class, the USS Virginia (SSN 774) was delivered on Oct. 12, 2004. Virginia is the first major combatant delivered to the U.S. Navy that was designed with the post-Cold War security environment in mind.

Preparations for the launch began April 6 when the sector's floating dry dock moved into position behind the Texas. The following morning a transfer car system raised the 7,800-ton submarine off its keel blocks and transported it 500 feet to the floating dry dock. On April 8, the floating dry dock, with Texas on board, moved into launch position and shipyard employees and Texas crew members completed final launch preparations. On April 9 the floating dry dock began to slowly fill with water and after seven hours, Northrop Grumman Newport News successfully launched Texas into the James River. Once in the water, tugboats moved Texas to the shipyard's submarine pier where final outfitting and testing will take place.

USS Texas, with improved stealth, sophisticated surveillance capabilities and special warfare enhancements, will provide undersea supremacy well into the 21st century. The keel for Texas was laid on July 12, 2002 and the ship was christened on July 31, 2004. First Lady Laura Bush is the ship's sponsor and attended both ceremonies. The ship is scheduled to be delivered in 2006.



Top: Artist's rendering of a Virginia Class Submarine firing a MK48 Torpedo. Courtesy Northrop Grumman Corp. Bottom: The floating dry dock holding Texas slowly fills with water before the submarine is launched into the James River on April 9. Once in the water, tugboats moved Texas to Northrop Grumman shipyard's submarine pier, where final outfitting and testing will take place. Photo by Chris Oxley

CNO Says Future Navy is Right Navy

WASHINGTON (NNS) --Today's Navy is creating the right Navy for the future and the country, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark told military and industry leaders at the annual Navy League of the United States Sea-Air-Space Exposition luncheon held March 24 at the Washington D.C. Marriott Wardman Park Hotel.

"Ensuring Global Access," the theme for this year's Sea-Air-Space Exposition, is the key to the effectiveness of the Navy's sea basing efforts for projecting power ashore from the maritime domain. "In it's simplest terms, anything that floats on, under or is in the air operated from our area is the sea base, and the sea base is all about our ability to exploit our advantage of maneuver space," Clark explained.

Comparing notes with his speech at the same event four years earlier, Clark told the audience the Navy is heading in the right direction. Reviewing his 2001 address, he had said then, "I've never been involved in a joint operation where access was not an issue. Anyone contending with the United States in the future has to think about anti-access. It's a serious challenge for the United States military, but the Navy has some things going for it."

Clark said the Navy has learned a great deal in the past four years from the lessons of USS Cole (DDG 67), 9-11, Operation Enduring Freedom and ongoing Operation Iraqi Freedom. "What we've come to believe about this access issue is that exploiting our strengths, our advantages in the maritime domain is more important than ever before."

"Four years ago we hadn't conceived of a Fleet Response Plan... we didn't talk about the ability to surge," Clark said. Mentioning programs like LCS, DD(X), MPF(F) and LHA(R) he said, "This Navy, the Navy that we are building today, is being built from the keel up to provide this nation with assured access. I believe that the future Navy, the Navy that we are creating today, is the right Navy for the United States of America."

Speaking at the exposition for the fifth time during his tenure as CNO, Clark thanked the Navy League and national president Sheila M. McNeill for their continuing support. "Our Sailors, and for that matter our Marines, Airman, Soldiers and Coast Guard are watching the way Americans are responding to their labors representing this country in the far corners of this earth," he said. "Your message is unequivocal. Your message has sent them a clear indication that you support and believe in the sons and daughters of America."

From Chief of Naval Operations Public Affairs



Washington, D.C. (Mar. 24, 2005) - Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Vern Clark shares the stage with the National President of the Navy League of the United States, Sheila M. McNeill, as he answers questions from attendees of the 2005 Sea Air Space Exposition luncheon hosted by the Navy League. U.S. Navy photo by Chief Photographer's Mate Johnny Bivera

\$1000 Donation For Armed Forces Day Gala



On behalf of the Council, League President Roger Nance accepts a check from Ret Col Al Knight of Patriots Landing for \$1000 in support of The Armed Forces Day Gala.

Marty With The Presidents

Below: CTTSN Jacob M. Evans, USS Ft. McHenry (LSD-43), Sasebo, Japan is pictured with former President Bill Clinton aboard the Ft. McHenry. Former President's Bush and Clinton made a humanitarian visit to the Indo Tsunami disaster area in March while the Ft. McHenry was supplying relief to the area.



Above: While on leave, CTTSN Jacob M. Evans, (Marty), son of Navy League board member Drake Evans, was a guest at the April luncheon. Marty is shown with League President Roger Nance.



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 Navy League of the United States
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Planning Calendar

- Tuesday May 10 Monthly Luncheon - Bangor Plaza
- Saturday May 21 Armed Forces Day
 - Parade in Morning - Bremerton
 - Evening Gala - Admiral Theater
- Monday May 30 Memorial Day Services - USS Turner Joy
- Tuesday June 14 Monthly Luncheon - Bangor Plaza



On this Date:

May 2, 1982 - The British nuclear submarine *Conqueror* sank the Argentine cruiser *General Belgrano* in the South Atlantic during the Falklands war, the first torpedoing by a submarine since World War II and the first ever torpedoing by a nuclear submarine.

May Luncheon

Date: May 10, 2005
Time: 11:30 AM
Place: Bangor Plaza, Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor
Program: Capt Ervin and Lt Divano speaking on the latest technology in submarine rescue

Call Pioneer Services at 360.405.6336 by Friday April 29th 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 reservation list. Guests and members without a base pass must also be on the list and enter through the main gate.

May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

June

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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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