



NOW HEAR THIS!



Navy League of the United States Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council

Volume 59, Issue 4

April 2007

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NEW MEMBERS

Welcome Aboard

- ★ William and Tami Roddick
- ★ Heather Rush
- ★ John Taylor



President's Corner

Fellow Navy Leaguers! The troop surge in Iraq and recent press reporting on poor treatment of wounded veterans bring to our daily attention the sacrifices of all our service people. I believe the broadly expressed outrage over the condition of facilities, quality of service, and bureaucratic paralysis are an appropriate response from the civilian community. Speaking for the Navy League, our focus on and concern is for the sea services. However, we have Sailors, Marines, and Coasties supporting combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as patrolling the far reaches of the globe under adverse conditions. (Please take a few moments to read the excellent articles in the March Sea Power magazine.)

As we approach Armed Forces Day, we seek to honor all services. "Honoring America's Heroes" will be theme for the Armed Forces Day Gala. I believe this captures the sense of the nation at this time. We are at war. The Armed Forces are bearing the burden

of the fight. We must do what we can to honor their commitment. If you have not attended an Armed Forces Day Gala, consider attending this one, May 19th. You will not be sorry.

Speaking of sorry, I missed the March luncheon. I was attending the National Defense Industrial Association Undersea Warfare Conference in San Diego. Admiral Roughead, COMPACFLT, was the keynote speaker. It was the 2nd time in a week that I saw him. He was in our area just last week. It was a very interesting conference.

We also had a contingent of our Council attend a Maritime Strategy Symposium in Seattle on 9 March. I hope to get some feedback from this group to our general membership. We have some excellent opportunities to meet and interact with the leadership of the sea services.

We are also sorry to hear that RDML Bill French and his wife Monika will be leaving us shortly and unexpectedly. They have been good friends to the Navy League and to the community. We hate to see them go. This should be a good career assignment for him, and I expect to see him continuing on to positions of even greater responsibility.

Stan Mack

Navy League Bids Admiral Farewell

It was with sadness at the luncheon in March that Will Lent announced that Rear Admiral French, Commander Navy Region Northwest, will be leaving our community for a new post in Guam. He will become the commander of U.S. Naval Forces Marianas. The Command oversees the Navy's largest and most strategic base in the Western Pacific. More than 12,000 military members and their families are stationed there. Admiral and Mrs. French have been good friends to the Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Navy League. He will certainly be missed by Navy League and the community.

Taking over for Adm. French on an interim basis will be his Chief of Staff, Capt. T. J. Dargan.



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We welcome your comments and story ideas. Items for publication, changes of address, and inquires should be sent to:

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or email: nparker@reidrealestate.com

IN MEMORIAM

Ruth Siegfried
1912-2007

With our Lord on
March 5th, 2007

Wife of Bob Siegfried
NL Past President 1983-1984

Public Invited Navy League Luncheon April 10th

The monthly luncheon for the Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Navy League will be held on Tuesday, April 10th, at 11:30 a.m. in the Bangor Plaza (formerly called the Trident Ballroom, CMO) Naval Base Kitsap - Bangor. The luncheon will feature Captain T.J. Dargan, Interim Commander Navy Region Northwest, as the guest speaker.

All guests must RSVP and enter only through the Main Gate off Luoto Road. Reservations are required. Call Pioneer Services (360-405-6336) no later than Thursday, April 5th. The cost of the luncheon is \$12/person. Please consider joining the local Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Navy League Council and help support the troops (<http://brem-olympic.nlus.us>).

Armed Forces Day Gala - Saturday, May 19 Admiral Theatre

- 4:30 Doors Open for Networking & Cocktails
5:00 Reception on the Mezzanine
5:30 Adm. Kirk Donald Greets Sponsors on the Mezzanine
6:00 Navy League Program – Presentation of Colors
6:30 Congressman Norm Dicks Speech and Introduction of Adm. Kirk Donald, Chief of Naval Reactors
6:40 Adm. Donald Presentation
7:00 Dinner
8:00 Entertainment – No Inhibitions Jazz Band
9:00 Adjourn

For reservations contact the Admiral Theatre Box Office
360-373-6810

Captain Wilson - Naval Hospital Bremerton



Our luncheon speaker in March was Captain Cathy Wilson, Commanding Officer Naval Hospital Bremerton. She opened her presentation by thanking Navy League for their support, and stated that Bremerton is the best family medicine hospital in the Navy.

Captain Wilson talked about the world wide support to humanitarian and operational missions provided by Naval Hospitals. She also discussed resource challenges in the medical community in the next few years. She expects 901 billet cuts in fiscal year 2008. At the same time a military to civilian conversion process is taking place where some military positions are being replaced with civilians. She described cuts in the number of beds available in Naval field hospitals and hospital ships (USNS Mercy and USNS Comfort).

Captain Wilson described her experience as commander of an Expeditionary Medical Facility in Kuwait, her previous assignment to Bremerton. The EMF was staffed with personnel from 27 different commands that all came together once they arrived in Kuwait. She showed a large number of slides of various events and scenes in Kuwait. The EMF dealt with casualties from a large number of vehicle accidents as well as from improvised explosive devices (IED). The environment in Kuwait was not friendly, from sand storms, to extremely high temperatures, to flooding.

Captain Wilson closed her presentation with an invitation for attendees to take a tour of the Naval Hospital. Navy League thanks Captain Wilson for her gift of her time and talent in support of Navy League.

The NW Region Conference in Portland

The NW Region Conference will be held in Portland from June 7 thru June 10 in conjunction with the Portland Rose Festival Fleet Week.

This June will be the 100th Anniversary of the Portland Rose Festival, and part of the Rose Festival is its Fleet Week celebration. 100 years ago, the USS Charleston made an appearance at the first Portland Rose Festival. This year ships from the US Navy, US Coast Guard and the Canadian Maritime Forces will be in attendance. Many flags will also be in attendance. The Blueback Submarine Council and the Portland NL Council will be hosting numerous events for the fleet during their stay. All Navy League Members are encouraged to attend this fun event.

A block of rooms has been set aside at the Four Points Sheraton Portland East,

1919 NE 181 Avenue. For reservations call 1.888.828.1918, ask for "Navy League" block of rooms." A special rate of \$95 plus tax includes free parking, complimentary continental breakfast, high-speed internet access, refrigerator & micro. DEADLINE FOR ROOM RESERVATIONS IS MONDAY, MAY 7, 2007. HURRY!!!

Bigger is Better! In 2007, the Rose Festival will celebrate 100 years of *Tradition, Innovation and Celebration* in the Portland community with a centennial event like none other! Join us for this unprecedented tribute to Portland's history, culture and community as we reinvigorate past traditions and create new customs that will endure throughout the Rose Festival's next century! Expect special gala affairs, dynamic new programming and more magical, phenomenal, fantastical spectacles

by Norma Parker



Come On Along!

You too can attend the many Tours arranged by our Council. On March 20, twenty four members of our Council traveled to Everett to tour the USS Abraham Lincoln CVN 72.



NL member, Henry Alexieff, strolls the Flight deck with training underway on an aircraft. The catapult is under the tent.



NL enjoys the view from the Bridge while touring the Lincoln. A special treat for new members and guests.



Our group on tour. How many can you identify? Henry Alexieff, Jerry Baltzer, Pierre Cappuccino, Kathryn and Brian Felix, Beverly Good, Stuart Hansill, Adam Home, Jerry & Jean Home, Jacquelyn O'Mallry, Don Kennedy, Don Matheson, Phil Lato, Jim and Gloria McGrath, Helen Miller. George Rose, Bill Shipley, Evan Stanley, Roger Wood, Louis Mejia, Byron Fasber, Carol Meteney.



Navy League Seeks Support

Most people who have traveled to Sea-Tac are familiar with the USO facility. There is also a facility located at the air terminal at McChord AFB that is open 7 days a week providing refreshments, toiletries and snacks to service members being deployed. All Pacific NW Region commands that deploy or return are processed through McCord. This amounts to an average of 1,500 service personnel a day being served by the USO.

The USO also has a mobile canteen that provides snacks, sandwiches, coffee, etc. for service events, from field maneuvers at Fort Lewis to deploying or returning naval units at Whidbey, Everett and PSNS.

The USO receives no government funds. All funding is through donations and there is a continuing need for material, food items and personal items. The USO is asking Navy League Members for donations in kind. Our Board of Directors is establishing a fund to help provide needed food items, supplies and toiletries on a monthly basis. NL volunteers will coordinate the purchase and delivery each month.

We are asking all NL members to consider supporting this worthwhile effort. Tax deductible donations can be made to Navy League and designated to the USO project. Please contact Louis Mejia at 360.917.1227 or 360.731.2015.



Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council
 Navy League of the United States
 Post Office Box 626
 Bremerton, WA 98337-0131

Postage for your newsletter has been provided by



Planning Calendar

- Wednesday April 4 Board of Director's Meeting, 6:00 pm,
Reid Real Estate, Bremerton
- Tuesday April 10 Monthly Luncheon, Bangor Plaza Speaker, Captain
T. J. Dargan, Interim Commander Navy Region NW
- Wednesday May 2 Board of Director's Meeting, 6:00 pm,
Reid Real Estate, Bremerton
- Tuesday May 8 Monthly Luncheon Meeting, Bangor Plaza
- Saturday May 19 Navy League Annual Armed Forces Day Gala,
Admiral Theatre, Bremerton
- Monday May 28 Memorial Day Service



A P R I L							M A Y						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
29	30						27	28	29	30	31		

WINNER!

The luncheon raffle winner who will receive the next luncheon for free was Norma Parker.

March Luncheon

Date: April 10, 2007
Time: 11:30 AM
Place: Bangor Plaza, Naval Base Kitsap - Bangor
Program: Captain T.J. Dargan
 Interim Commander
 Navy Region Northwest

Call Pioneer Services at 360.405.6336 by Thursday, April 5th 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.



Navy League of the United States
Northwest Region Conference
June 7 – 10, 2007
 in conjunction with the
Portland Rose Festival Fleet Week



Conference and Event Registration

Name: _____

Address: _____

Council: _____

Spouse or Guest (if attending): _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Conference Registration: (Required of all attendees)	\$5 x _____ = _____
*Ship ride up Columbia River (Jun 7)	\$35 x _____ = _____
*Navy Reception (Jun 8)	\$0 x _____ = <u>nc</u>
Grand Floral Parade (Jun 9)	\$15 x _____ = _____
Saturday Award Luncheon (Jun 9)	\$18 x _____ = _____
Centennial Ball (Formal or NLUS blazer) (Jun 9)	\$150 x _____ = _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____

Make check payable to: **Portland Council, NLUS**

* Please provide complete name and date of birth. This is for Navy Security

Name _____ DOB _____

Name _____ DOB _____

Please return this form and check by April 4 to guarantee seating at Portland Rose Festival events. After April 4 seats are subject to availability. Hotel rooms at the conference rate will be held until May 7th.

Return registration form and check to:

Jim Lasher
President, Columbia-Pacific Area
1328 NE Charles Court
Fairview, OR 97024