



# Now Hear This!



Navy League of the United States

Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council

Volume 61, Issue 04

April 2008

## 2008 COUNCIL OFFICERS

President	Guy Stitt 360.373.2686
Vice President	Dave Thomas 360.373.2673
Treasurer	Gary Gunderson 206.365.4219
Secretary	Byron Faber 360.638.1235
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Todd Pacific Shipyard

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## NEW MEMBERS

*Welcome Aboard*

- John Armstrong
- Steve Dole
- Calvin Peck

## Admiral Roughhead - Guest of Honor



Chief of Naval Operations to be Guest of Honor at Navy League's Armed Forces Gala

We received great news in February. Our CNO, Admiral Gary Roughhead, has agreed to be the Grand Marshall for Bremerton's Armed Forces Day Parade and Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council's Guest of Honor at the Navy League Gala on Saturday, May 17, at the Admiral Theater.

Adm. Roughhead is a 1973 graduate of the United States Naval Academy. Among his six operational commands, Adm. Roughhead was the first officer to command both classes of Aegis ships, having commanded USS Barry and USS Port Royal.

As a Flag Officer, Adm. Roughhead commanded Cruiser Destroyer Group 2, the George Washington Battle Group; and U.S. Second Fleet/NATO Striking Fleet Atlantic and Naval Forces North Fleet East. Ashore, he served as Commandant, United States Naval Academy, the Department of the Navy's Chief of Legislative

Affairs, and as Deputy Commander, U.S. Pacific Command.

Adm. Roughhead's awards include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Navy Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, and various unit and service awards.

Adm. Roughhead became the 29th Chief of Naval Operations on 29 September 2007. There was one member of Congress that attended Admiral Roughhead's ceremony of "taking over the office" and that was our Congressman Norm Dicks.

Admiral Roughhead is familiar with Bremerton. While serving as Commander of the Pacific Fleet he visited here several times meeting with our Navy bases and ships as well as members of our community.

So look for the invitations in the mail for our Armed Forces Day Gala and come join us in welcoming and celebrating our CNO's visit to Bremerton.



## President's Message

Hello Navy League members and friends!

We received some good news early this month. Our CNO Admiral Gary Roughead has agreed to be the Grand Marshall for Bremerton's Armed Forces Day Parade and our Guest of Honor at the Navy League Gala at the Admiral Theater on May 17th.

Our "Annual Report" has been submitted to Navy League Headquarters on February 26th thanks to the great efforts of Vern Young and the council's Board of Directors. The Lone Sailor Statue effort continues to make great progress in planning and fundraising. Stand by for some more good news on this front.

Finally, I would like to remind all of us of the great sacrifice being made by our soldiers and sailors and their families in our efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Our Navy League works hard to demonstrate our thanks and support of these sacrifices.

In addition to my involvement with Navy League, another way that I have found to demonstrate my support at home and in my workplace is through the AdoptaPlatoon Soldier Support Effort™. This organization, founded in 1998, is a nonprofit 501C-3 organization managed nationwide by volunteer mothers to ensure that deployed United States Service members in all branches of the military are not forgotten.

I have adopted several soldiers operating in Iraq and send them care packages and letters regularly. If you are inclined and interested, you can find more details at their website. <http://www.adoptaplatoon.org/new/index.htm>

Thanks for being a Navy leaguer! I'm proud to be associated with all of you.

*Gary Stitt*

## Northwest Navy Notes: March 2008

By Rear Adm. James A. Symonds, Commander, Navy Region Northwest

"Northwest Navy Notes" is a column written by Rear Adm. James A. Symonds, Commander, Navy Region Northwest, to provide updates on the operations and challenges in Navy Region Northwest and a review of what is important in the Navy today.

For this first installment, I'd like to give you a broad look at what's going on at our installations around the Puget Sound.

At Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, while continuing to support combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan with regular rotations of Prowler and P-3 squadrons, we are gearing up for major aircraft transitions in both communities. The introduction of the EA-18 Growler, the replacement electronic warfare platform for the Prowler, is approaching quickly. We have begun construction work to modify Hangar 5 to accept the first Growler units. On the Patrol Wing end of the field, construction plans are coming together for introduction of the P-8A, the P-3's replacement.

At Naval Station Everett, we are readying for departure of the USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) and its strike group, including the destroyers USS Momsen (DDG 92) and USS Shoup (DDG 86). As well, a new bachelor quarters is in "full-speed ahead" construction mode. It will support the Chief of Naval Operations vision of Sailors on ships being able to quarter ashore when the ships are in port. Finally, we are awaiting construction of a new training facility which will support training traditionally taking place at other bases around the United States.

At Naval Magazine Indian Island, the big news in the last year was the transition to supporting the new guided missile submarines, SSGNs, represented on the West Coast by USS Ohio (SSGN 726), currently on its first



deployment as an SSGN. In June 2007 at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility, USS Michigan (SSGN 727) became the third of four ballistic-missile submarines to be converted to a guided-missile platform. With the change, the ship's mission capabilities are more sophisticated and will be able to perform more tasks than before. The number of days per year with a ship at its pier is increasing at Naval Magazine Indian Island, as its importance to the Pacific Fleet grows.

At Naval Base Kitsap, the pace of operations and maintenance of our ballistic missile submarine fleet continues without let-up. We have installation construction projects about to begin, and more on the planning board, designed to ensure Bangor can support the increased numbers of submarines based here since the decision to enhance the Navy's presence in the Pacific Ocean. As you've read from Capt. Brad Johanson, USN, commanding officer of USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74), the 97,000-ton aircraft carrier continues in its maintenance availability at PSNS & IMF, and is on track to completion later this Spring.

Within my staff, and our extensions on each base, we continue to work the issues and challenges in supporting all this activity through our focus on the Fleet units, the Fighters (Sailors) within those units, and their Families who also serve their country by supporting their Sailors.

In future articles, I'll zero in on some particular highlights of our successes and challenges in Navy Region Northwest. Thanks very much for your support to our Navy.

For more information on the Navy in the Northwest, please visit us online at <http://cnic.navy.mil/cnrnw>.

# A Big John C. Stennis Thank You to Puget Sound Naval Shipyard the Best Shipyard in the World!

by Captain Bradley Johanson, Commanding Officer of the USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74)



Hello Navy League! Another great month for the Fleet!

The crew of the JOHN C. STENNIS teamed up with the super professionals of Puget Sound

Naval Shipyard just completed the most intensive maintenance project I have ever seen. Though this was not of the complexity of a complete overhaul or new construction, projects that take 3 to 5 years and billions of dollars, it was an extremely intense amount of work with only six months to complete.

Over the past six months, this ship has completed \$240,000,000 in upgrades and maintenance work. We have new combat systems upgrades, new electronic throttle controls, new arresting gear safety control systems, and an extensive suite of new aviation electronic support systems designed to provide maintenance for the new MH-60 helicopters. An incredible amount of work that would only be possible with a team of tight knit professionals driven to get the job done on time and under budget.

As such, I would like to use this opportunity to say thank you to the incredible team of professionals that make up the work force of Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. Captain Dan Peters, the Commander of PSNS does an exemplary job of managing dozens of naval work packages of huge scope and complexity. In addition, his team of department heads do an incredible job of dividing up the responsibilities and resources across all the assets available to the largest public shipyard in the world - Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. And their point man at the tip of the spear in shipyard maintenance for our project was Mr. Tim Ferguson, a 30 year veteran in shipyard maintenance, and a master at the key traits required to make this project a success - planning, teamwork, communications and resources. Tim got the job done right and as tax payers, we

should all be very happy that our pocket book resources are managed by someone of Tim's managerial skills.

So how did Puget Sound Naval Shipyard become such a success story? As I read through the popular historical publication - NIPSIC to NIMITZ, I was amazed to read about the incredible history behind PSNS. Brought into being in 1891, their first dry dock was brought on line in 1896. They served as the primary repair facility for the vessels damaged in the attack on Pearl Harbor, such as USS NEVADA, USS CALIFORNIA and USS MARYLAND. In addition, with a workforce of over 30,000 shipyard workers during WWII they built 53 new vessels, including 5 aircraft carriers and repaired 26 warships damaged in battle.

In the 1940's and 50's they converted our aircraft carriers from the straight deck configuration to the angled deck to cut down on the mishap rate due to aircraft crashing on landing. In 1973 they completed the first overhaul on a nuclear powered warship - USS ENTERPRISE to keep her combat ready. Once nuclear certified, PSNS became the hub for submarine maintenance as well for all vessels stationed on the west coast.

Since that time the shipyard has served as homeport for USS NIMITZ, USS CARL VINSON, and now USS JOHN C. STENNIS.

In addition, the history of Puget Sound Naval Shipyard is the history of Bremerton. Since the day of its inception, the economy of Bremerton has rested upon the shoulders of PSNS. A city can not survive without jobs for its people and the value of the work accomplished by this Shipyard, and therefore this city, is essential to our nations well being.

As an American Citizen and a member of the United States Navy, I am thankful for the opportunity to serve alongside people of the caliber and capability of the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard Team.

Thank you PSNS.

Warmest regards,  
Brad Johanson

## Bulletin Board

from the Board of Directors

■ **Board Minutes** – A complete copy of the minutes of the Board of Director's meeting is available on the Website each month. Look under "Board Members Only." Check it out!! <http://brem-olympic.nlus.us>.

■ **Annual Report** – The Annual Report has been completed and submitted to National. Thank you Vern Young and Karen Ebersole for all your time and effort.

■ **John Armstrong** – joins the Public Affairs Committee. Welcome aboard, John!

■ **Karen Ebersole** – nominated to the Board to be voted on at next Luncheon Meeting. Karen will fill Vern Young's position as Historian. Welcome aboard Karen!

■ **Armed Forces Gala** – plans are in full swing. Earl Smith reports that we expect a sold out event due to Admiral Roughhead accepting our invitation to be the Featured Speaker.

■ **Council Float** – being readied for an appearance in the Armed Forces Day Parade on May 17.

## Essay/Art Contest

Our Council sponsored two contests in conjunction with the Lone Sailor Memorial project. One was an essay and the second was a work of art representing the Lone Sailor Memorial. Both contests were around the theme of "What does the Lone Sailor Memorial represent to you?"

Students enrolled in grades 9 through 12 in a Kitsap County public, parochial, private, or home school were invited to participate. Both contests were designed to make the public more aware of this project dedicated to the men and women who serve our nation, past, present and future.

Winners of both the essay and art contests will be presented their awards at the Armed Forces Day gala event held at the Admiral theatre here in Bremerton on 17 May 2008.

As youth coordinator for the Bremerton Lone Sailor project, Mr. Doug Cook was proud to announce that Bremerton high school had both the first and second place winners of the art contest.

Lisa Stith was the second place winner and will be receiving an I Pod. Amanda Benson will receive a new laptop. Congratulations and certificate presentations were made on the high school TV during morning announcements on 3 March 2008. Their teachers, Don Evans and Steve Priest were also mentioned during the broadcast for encouraging such fine entries. Photos of these winners will also be posted on the website shortly.

Submitted by Doug Cook

# PT Boats to be Subject of April Luncheon



A group of veterans have just finished a complete restoration of a PT Boat and will be appearing before our group at the April luncheon, traveling all the way from Oregon to share their exploits with us.

Some 800 PT boats were constructed during World War II. Most of the boats were built by Elco or Higgins factories. They saw much action in the Southern Pacific. Thirty nine of these boats saw action in the Battle of Suragaio Strait as reported in the February luncheon program. The late president John F. Kennedy commanded one such boat in the South Pacific. General McArthur was safely evacuated from Corregidore by one with much publicity.

No two of the many PT Boats had the exact same configuration depending on the wishes of the crew and the armaments available at the time. Their sizes ranged from 70 to 80 feet in length with a displacement of some 50

tons. They carried depth charges and four aircraft torpedoes. Their three large 12 cylinder, 2500 V, supercharged Packard engines gave them a top speed of 52 miles per hour. They had radar together with a 40 mm Bofors machine gun, a 20 mm Orlikon machine gun and six 50 cal machine guns. They were the most heavily armed boats for their size and were shipped over seas by large ships with deck space such as tankers. With a crew of about twelve, they had a distinguished war record sinking 250,000 tons of enemy shipping.

Mark your calendars for this interesting presentation. Tuesday, April 8, 2008, 11:30 at the Bangor Plaza.

*Submitted by Will Lent*



## News Flash

Rear Admiral Timothy M. "Tim" Giardina, Commander of Submarine Group Trident headquartered at Naval Base Kitsap, has been nominated for a second star.

Rear Adm. Giardina is responsible for administrative command and control of all U.S. ballistic/guided missile submarines. Congratulations from Navy League, RADM Giardina!

*Submitted by Ron Testa  
National Director*

## Navy League Luncheon April 8

The monthly luncheon for the Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Navy League will be held on Tuesday, April 8th, at 11:30 a.m. in the Bangor Plaza, Naval Base Kitsap - Bangor. The public is invited to attend. Everyone should make a reservation by calling **Concurrent Technologies Corporation (CTC) (360-782-5500)** no later than Wednesday, April 1st. The cost of the luncheon is \$15/person. If you do not have base access, enter only through the Main Gate off Luoto Road and you must have made a reservation to be on the list at the gate.

**Save the Date – May 17, 2008 – Armed Forces Gala**

# ARMED FORCES DAY GALA – MAY 17<sup>th</sup>

The Armed Forces Day Navy League Gala” will be held on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at the Admiral Theatre, located between 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> on Pacific Avenue. The menu is “surf & turf,” both salmon and beef. A vegetarian plate may be requested when you make your reservations. The cost of the event including dinner is \$45/person. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. to allow for networking and cocktails. The program will start promptly at 6:00 p.m. and will include Admiral Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), as the guest speaker. Dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. Civilian Attire: Black Tie or Business. Military Attire: Dinner Dress White.

Danny Vernon, a Seattle-based “Elvis tribute artist”, will perform from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. He is truly an exceptional performer. Danny Vernon’s voice is so much like Elvis’ that you will be amazed. He keeps the spirit of the “king” alive. For those that wish to by-pass the dinner, tickets for the 8:00 p.m. show only are available for seating in the balcony. These tickets are \$15/person. ([www.dannyvernon.com](http://www.dannyvernon.com)).

The Admiral Theatre staff will be taking all reservations at 360-373-6810 or 360-373-6743. Payment made be made by credit card over the phone -or- you may mail your check to: Admiral Theatre, 515 Pacific Ave, Bremerton, WA 98337. For more information contact Sandra Howes Smith at [captstwo@wavecable.com](mailto:captstwo@wavecable.com) or 360-876-0255.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surf & Turf # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian # \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Guests: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number Attending @ \$45/person: \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

***Make checks payable to Admiral Theatre and note it is for the May 17<sup>th</sup> NL dinner.  
 If you cannot attend, please consider sponsoring a service member and spouse.***



**MASN Joshua Yascavage** was honored at the March luncheon for being named **Kitsap Blue Jacket of the Quarter** for the 4th Quarter of 2007. Seaman Yascavage is a security officer and MACM Timothy Moes stated he was one of the “strongest, sharpest sponges for education that he has ever worked with.” This SWFPAC awardee was presented with a plaque, a gift to a local restaurant and photo sittings provided by Hudson (photography by Alice Thomas our Council Awards Chair).



**PSI Jesus Chavez** accepts a plaque, gift certificate to a local restaurant and photo sittings provided by Hudson Photography from Alice Thomas, Council Awards Chair at the March luncheon. PSI Chaves was honored for being named **Senior Sailor of the Quarter** for the 4th Quarter, 2007. According to PSCS Abad & PSCM Serrano, “He is a total sailor. He has delivered every time.” PSI Chavez will depart soon to serve as an IA in Iraq.



**EM2 Jose Ramirez** was honored for being named **Junior Sailor of the Quarter** for the 4th Quarter, 2007 while his spouse, Cynthia, witnessed the event. In his spare time, EM2 Ramirez helps coordinate for the Kitsap County Food Bank. This IMF awardee was presented with a plaque, a gift certificate to a local restaurant and photo sittings provided by Hudson Photography by Awards Chair, Alice Thomas. EM2 Ramirez was also accompanied by Captain Jim Stone and EMC Brian Williams.

# Tour to Museum of Flight & Boeing a Great Success

Carol Meteney, our Director of Trips and Tours, broadened the scope of our tours by inviting council member Gary Gunderson to arrange a tour to Boeing Museum of Flight for our members. This was our first sponsored tour of the Museum

Our first tour was an all day tour of the Museum of Flight in Seattle at Boeing Field where we saw everything from vintage planes to space equipment. Yes, we even saw navy planes. We also had a special quick tour of the Aviation Learning Center and knew that we wanted to return for a full training session.

On our second tour, Gary gave us a pre-flight orientation and then we worked at various learning stations on filing flight plans, weight and balance, navigation, weather, flight dynamics and preflight inspection. After successful completion of these activities we were ready for the full simulation of flying a single engine Cirrus SR-20 airplane from Boeing Field to Payne's Field and return. Some of our group really did well on this activity.

On February 19, we actually went to Payne's Field to see the runway where we landed in the simulation. Mr. Ed Kaplanian gave us a special VIP tour of the Dreamliner. We were one of the first groups to actually see a mock-up of the new 787. We were told that once production on these giant airships begins, assembly would only take three days from start to finish. In contrast, the 747 takes 5 months from start to finish. After lunch we toured the gigantic Boeing plant. We were told that it is the largest building in the world. The building has no heating or cooling and is so large that fans were needed in the ceiling to recirculate the air so that rain clouds didn't form.



*Navy League Tour attendees enjoying receiving information from Docent, Edward Kaplanian, the Special Projects Manager at the Future of Flight Center. This tour was a special treat for our members added to our tour by Mr. Kaplanian.*

On our final stop of the day, we explored the Restoration Center where we saw old planes being lovingly restored to their original glory. We had an opportunity to sit in a luxurious 1933 United Airlines plane and wish that our current planes were as comfortable.

Our thanks to Tour Directors, Carol Meteney and Gary Gunderson, for

making these tours available for our members and guests. The opportunities to go behind the scenes and access material and people that are not generally available to the public made these events very special and are an important part of our Council.

*Submitted by Carolyn Dankers*

**Watch for the "Great White Fleet" Coming in May**

# First American Title Joins Council as a Community Affiliate



## First American Title Insurance Company

Drawing on over one hundred years of experience and innovation, First American Title Insurance Company provides technology expertise and a comprehensive selection of title and real estate settlement services. First American is dedicated to leading the industry in customer satisfaction by providing consistently high-quality service and in innovation by developing and marketing new systems, products and services.

With a network of offices throughout the USA, Europe and Asia, the real strength of First American Title is in its local operations. In Kitsap County, our experienced and dedicated team of title, escrow and customer service personnel is always ready to serve with offices conveniently located in Poulsbo, Silverdale and Port Orchard.

As the pace of American life grows faster with each passing day, more and more of life's events are influenced by the rapid flow of information. The information needed to make economic-transaction decisions must be timelier and more accurate than ever before. The need for this information is the engine that powers The First American Corporation. Using expertise gained over more than a century of service, and employing the finest technology

tools available, First American has built information resources that touch the economic events that occur in all of our lives. The range, depth and geographic reach of these services are unequalled in private industry.

Welcome aboard First American Title & Insurance Company!



*John Bozich, First American Title Insurance Company's Sales & Marketing Representative for Kitsap County will be representing First American at our Council meetings and functions. Please welcome John when you see him at our next meeting.*



**The Blue Star Banner Program of Kitsap county is to recognize and support the "local" military personnel who are serving in our Armed Forces.**

A large Blue Star banner will be created for each "local" military member proudly serving our Country. These will be displayed throughout Bremerton, Poulsbo, Silverdale and Port Orchard for as long as the member is serving. We will also be displaying a banner for those who have died while serving our Country; they will be displayed with a Gold star.

**You could help** by sponsoring a banner or submitting a name for a banner. Both the service members name and the sponsor name appear on both sides of these banners.

The banners will remain hanging until either the military man or woman departs the Armed Forces or 3-5 years (the life expectancy of the banners).

Please visit our website at  
[www.kitsapbluestar.org](http://www.kitsapbluestar.org)  
for additional information.

(360) 440-6497  
Blue Star  
Banner Program of  
Kitsap County  
P.O. Box 841  
Seabeck, WA 98380  
Any and all  
contributions  
are greatly  
appreciated.



## Mail Bag

*Mr. Salter:*

*I have said this several times in the past but having done newsletters and other publications for many years, I think that NOW HEAR THIS is one of the most attractive newsletters we receive. Al and I are both life members but do not come to the meetings very often. However, we have lots of friends in the Navy League and keep up with what is going on through them and the newsletter.*

*Thanks again for a super publication.*

*Dottie Gauvin*

**"Elvis is Coming! Sat, May 17th, 6pm, Admiral Theatre"**



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 2	Board of Director's Meeting, 6:00pm Reid Real Estate, Silverdale
	Tuesday	April 8	Monthly Luncheon Meeting, Bangor Plaza, 11:30am Program – P T Boats
	Wednesday	May 7	Board of Director's Meeting, 6:00pm Reid Real Estate, Silverdale
	Tuesday	May 13	Monthly Luncheon Meeting, Bangor Plaza, 11:30am Program – The Great White Fleet
	Saturday	May 17	Armed Forces Gala & Parade For info see April "Now Hear This"
	Tuesday	July 29	Sub Group Trident Tour For info see March "Now Hear This"

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27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## Notice - Date Change

The Sub Group Trident tour to Bangor has changed the date. The tour will be **July 29, 2008**, instead of June 3rd.

 **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 mailed to all members.

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**Published by** Communications Group  
 Raytheon  
 Integrated Defense Systems

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