



Now Hear This!



Navy League of the United States

Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council

Volume 62, Issue 04

April 2009

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NEW MEMBERS

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- ★ Ron Johnson
- ★ Jo Sellers
- ★ Leah Wattree
- ★ Dana Stone

ARMED FORCES DAY GALA MAY 16th – "SAVE THE DATE"

This year's "Legacy of Freedom - Armed Forces Day Navy League Gala" will be held on Saturday, May 16th at the Admiral Theatre, which is located between 5th & 6th on Pacific Avenue, Bremerton.

Linda Gentile's "The American Piano Show" should be very entertaining (www.AmericanPianoShow.com). Based out of New Jersey, she is on a world tour this year that includes seven cruises, two performances in California (Palm Springs & Fullerton), one in North Carolina, one in New Jersey and one in West Virginia. Her show is family oriented and very "red, white & blue." Gentile is an amazing mix of beauty, comedic charisma and piano virtuosity. She will perform from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Doors open at 5:00 p.m. to allow for networking and cocktails. The program will start promptly at 6:00 p.m. Our invited guest speaker is Admiral Kirkland H. Donald, Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion. At this time, his staff has not confirmed his attendance. Dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. Civilian



Attire: Black Tie or Business. Military Attire: Dinner Dress White.

The menu is "surf & turf," so you receive a combination of salmon and beef. If you prefer to have the vegetarian plate, you can request it at the time you make your reservation. The cost of the dinner is \$45/person. They will take credit card information over the phone -or- tell you to mail your check to:

Admiral Theatre, 515 Pacific Ave, Bremerton, WA 98337. Make your checks payable to: Admiral Theatre, with a note that the check is for the Navy League May 16th Gala.

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. The Admiral Theatre staff will be taking all reservations. Call the Admiral Theatre at 360-373-6810 or 360-373-6743 to make your reservation.

We look forward to having you at this wonderful annual event.



President's Message

Greetings and welcome to SPRING (at least I hope it will be by the time you are reading this, as I look outside at the 20 degree weather)!

It was a pleasure, at our March luncheon, to recognize Earle and Sandra Smith for their many years of dedicated support to our Navy League Council. Their devoted nurturing of the Armed Forces Gala and the Veterans Day celebration for the past several years has been inspirational and has made both events a huge success. Thank you Sandra and Earle for all that you do.

Your council, under the superb leadership of Committee co-chairs Mark Lowe and Will Lent, supported the Trident 1000th patrol celebration conducted by Commander, Submarine Group Trident. It was great to see a large turnout of Navy League members at the event participating in the festivities.

April 17-19 I hope to see many Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council members at the Northwest Region conference in Tacoma. See the article in this newsletter for details.



Dave Thomas accepts a presentation to Brem-Olympic Peninsula Council of Navy League from RADM Timothy Giardina, Commander, Submarine Group TRIDENT at the 100th Trident Patrol Celebration at the Navy League sponsored reception held at the Bangor Plaza following the Ceremony on February 26, 2009.

March Luncheon Sellout with a Down Side

March 10th we held our first luncheon at the Naval Undersea Museum at Keyport. While we may have had a few growing pains, it was a successful event. Our speaker, Will Lent, provided a huge "draw." We are proud to announce that we had a sell out crowd.

However, there is a down side to a sell out. This month we had to turn away people that called to make reservations and unfortunately there were a number of people that "signed up" for the luncheon but did not show up. This meant the empty seats could have been used by those we turned away.

Our luncheon orders to MWR (or any other provider) are based on the number of RSVP's. It is very important that if you sign up, you show up. We as a council pay for your empty seat. Other people that might want to attend do not have the opportunity.

Please, if you sign up, either show up at the luncheon or call to cancel your RSVP so we can give your empty seat to someone on the waiting list. Conversely, if you plan to come, RSVP, or you may not be able to get in. If you have questions about our luncheons, please contact our coordinator Carolyn Dankers.

Submitted by Dave Thomas

Commander from Naval Air Station, Whidbey Island to speak at April 14th Navy League Luncheon

The monthly luncheon for the Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Navy League will be held on Tuesday, April 14th, at 11:30 a.m. in the Banquet Room in the basement of the Keyport Naval Undersea Museum, 610 Dowell Street, Keyport, WA. Base access is not required, since the Museum is just outside the Keyport Base. As you approach the gate, the entrance to the Museum will be up the hill on your left.

Navy Commander Edward "Fizz" Wetzel, who is assigned to the staff of the Electronic Attack Wing, US Pacific Fleet at Naval Air Station, Whidbey Island, will serve as the guest speaker. CDR Wetzel is the Readiness/Requirements Officer for the Wing commanded by CAPT Brad Russell. CDR Wetzel will review what is involved in the transition from the EA-68 Prowler to the EA-18G Growler. He will touch on the mission, historic and current aircraft and his Wing's make-up and responsibilities.

The public is invited to attend. Everyone, including members, must make reservations. The food is catered, so it is important to have an accurate count on the number of meals. Call Concurrent Technologies Corporation (CTC) (360-782-5500) no later than noon on Thursday, April 9th. The cost of the luncheon is \$15/person.

*Submitted by
Sandra Howes Smith,
PR Chairman*

Council Active In Legislative Affairs

We have started planning for our visit to Washington DC. Our National Directors meeting will be coming up in June from the 11th through the 14th. We will be taking that time to visit with our Members of Congress and requesting that they vote on bills that will continue to provide top line funding for our sea services.

If you have an opportunity to meet with any member of Congress please let us know and we will provide you with information that we as Navy League members feel is important.

On our National website, www.navyleague.org, click on the Legislative Affairs window and go to the **Legislative Agenda for 111th Congress First Session**. This paper explains the Navy League reason for the needed top line funding for the sea services in FY10 and beyond. "The

Navy League believes that the sea services of the United States are the greatest force for peace in the world due to their deterrent capabilities. Budget tensions since the mid-1990s and the recent requirements of two ongoing regional conflicts have drained the equipment and personnel capabilities of our maritime services. Our maritime forces are now losing their ability to meet all the commitments placed on them. The Navy's fleet size has decreased to the smallest number of ships in almost 100 years. Our Coast Guard's fleet and aircraft were recognized as being outdated in 1995, but it was not until after the September 11 attacks that a significant modernization plan was developed. Given the anemic procurement rates of recent years, our shipbuilding industrial base capacity has atrophied to levels that undermine national security. Also, success in recruiting, developing,

and retaining qualified men and women is imperative – in both the Regular and Reserve components. Finally, the importance of proactively taking care of our most indispensable assets – service members and their families – cannot be overstated in this period of extraordinarily high operational tempo. Given these concerns, the Navy League recommends resetting our maritime services to a state where they can effectively execute their deterrence mission and maintain maritime superiority. This will require robust top line funding for our sea services in FY10 and beyond. "

Please work with us to educate our elected officials on our desire for strong sea services.

*Submitted by Carol A Meteney
Northwest Region Vice President
for Legislative Affairs*

Membership Committee Thanks Larry Salter



As the new chairman, I want to say "Thank You" to Larry Salter for heading up the membership committee the last two years.

He has done a marvelous job of helping to inspire our growth. He remains a part of the committee by coordinating the membership databases. When you see him, please thank him for the many hours he spent and continues to spend on membership issues.

When we think of membership we usually just think about people belonging to a club, an organization, or a council. Membership is much more

than just being a member or number. Members are the life and blood of that organization. Without membership, an organization will wither and disappear. Without a constant influx of new members, it will eventually disappear as well. Lucky for us, our membership numbers have been growing and look to continue growing. But we can't just sit back on our past endeavors of growth; we need to look toward the future.

Each member in the Bremerton Olympic Peninsula council is a potential recruiter. I say potential because all you have to do to become a recruiter is ask someone to join. You are a member because you wanted to support the Sea Services. Take that same feeling and pass it on to someone in your family, a friend or a business associate. Yes, that first time is hard. But the worst thing they can say "No." Having been a Navy Recruiter before, I know that feeling all

to well. When you hear that first "Yes," you will get a feeling of relief. Why relief, because you were successful! I ask everyone, all of our 500+ members to become recruiters today. What would you think of a goal of breaking 1000 members by the end of 2010? If every member just got one more person to join, we could do it. So I ask you, be a recruiter for this great council.

The membership committee is looking at ways to help promote new members, new business associates, new corporate sponsors and most of all, the current members. As a member, you have a huge say in the success of this council. We ask for you to provide us with feedback on how we are doing. From membership issues to events, you are the drivers.

*Submitted by Mark Lowe
MACM(SW/AW) (retired)
Membership Chairman*

ADM Kirkland Donald – Keynote Speaker at 1000th Ohio Class SSBN Strategic Deterrent Patrol Commemoration Ceremony



The USS Ohio (SSBN-726), just having passed through the Hood's Canal floating bridge and heading south, circa late 1980's. Photo Courtesy of Stayne Hoff and the US Naval Historical Center

RDML Timothy Giardina, Commander, Submarine Group TRIDENT, opened an impressive ceremony commemorating the 1,000th strategic deterrent patrol conducted by an Ohio-class fleet ballistic missile submarine (SSBN). More than 500 active and retired submariners and guests attended the ceremony on Feb. 26, at Naval Base Kitsap, Bangor, followed by a reception hosted by the Navy League Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council.

Adm. Kirkland Donald, Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion, gave the keynote address. Other speakers were RADM Douglas J. McAneny, Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet; RADM Cecil Haney, Director, Submarine Warfare Division; RADM Stephen E. Johnson, Director, Strategic Systems Programs; and VADM Carl Mauney, Deputy Commander, U.S. Strategic Command.

The speakers noted that Trident

submarines have been patrolling the world's oceans the past 27 years providing inherent stealth, firepower, nearly limitless endurance, and a credible deterrence for any enemies that would seek to use force against the United States or its allies.

"As we think about this accomplishment it is important to consider why we keep doing this, why we send these men to sea," said Vice Adm. Carl Mauney during his remarks. "The fact that we possess such weapons has deterred potential aggression and has assured our security and that of many of our allies."

USS Wyoming (SSBN 742) (Blue), assigned to Kings Bay, Ga., actually completed the 1000th patrol, but the ceremony paid tribute to past and present crews that served aboard one of the 18 Trident submarines.

The ceremony at Bangor followed a similar ceremony held at Kings Bay, Ga on Feb 19. "This celebration acknowledges

all of the SSBN crews and support organizations, for the years of dedicated service that made our strategic mission successful for decades," said Rear Adm. Giardina. "I want to especially thank our supportive family members who have enabled us to remain dedicated to this critical mission."

Our Council thanks our Event Sponsors:

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Navy League members and guests enjoy the hospitality of the McArthur 2 and the Okeanus Explorer in Seattle on March 14th

Council Tours the McArthur II and Enjoys a Surprise Visit to the Okeanos Explorer

On a chilly, rainy & windy Saturday, we gathered outside the gate of the NOAA facility the morning of March 7. We were met by Ensigns Petersen & Bloss and boarded the McArthur II, a special treat for council member, Mike Hancock, as his father served on the original McArthur.

The McArthur II was acquired from the U.S. Navy in 2002 and was converted by NOAA from a T-AGOS surveillance vessel to a multiple-disciplinary platform capable of a broad range of missions. As was its predecessor, the McArthur, the McArthur II is named after William Pope McArthur. The vessel is operated by NOAA's Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (NMAO), and is home ported at NOAA's Marine Operations Center, Pacific (MOP), in Seattle.

The ship conducts oceanographic research and assessments, throughout the eastern Pacific, including the U.S. West Coast, Central and South America. The McArthur II is involved in studies in several of the National Marine Sanctuaries on the west coast of the United States. The 224-foot ship engages in measurements of chemical, meteorological, and biological sampling for several large scale programs within NOAA.

The McArthur II carries a complement of 5 officers, 17 crew members and up to 15 scientists. The scientists who carry out research aboard the McArthur II come from many divisions of NOAA, as well as other Federal and state government agencies, and academia.

Then we were treated to a surprise tour of the Okeanos Explorer, named from the Greek "Okeanos," for ocean. It was a former Naval surveillance T-AGOS Class ship Capable. It has a length of 224 feet and breadth of 43 feet with a draft of 15 feet. It has a crew of 46 including mission support. NOAA ship Okeanos Explorer, "America's Ship for Ocean Exploration," is on a course to be the only U.S. ship assigned to systematically explore our largely unknown ocean for the purpose of discovery and the advancement of knowledge. Telepresence, using real-time broadband

satellite communications, will connect the ship and its discoveries, live with audiences ashore. It has two ROV's (remotely-operated vehicles) attached by a tether, capable of operating to depths of 19,700 feet. It also has hull-mounted, first-of-its-kind multibeam sonar for high-resolution maps of the seafloor as deep as 19,700 feet.

The ship was commissioned in Seattle August 13, 2008. The ship and crew will undergo field tests off the U.S. West Coast to train operators and test concepts of operations and equipment associated with the ship and its sensors and systems. All this leads to the ship's first full field season of operations in 2009, and a new way of exploring the ocean.

Why explore? All life on Earth relies on the ocean--an ocean that provides oxygen and regulates global temperature to make the Earth livable. Other key ocean benefits include food, energy and transportation.

The Ensigns gave us a brief description of each ship & its mission, showing great depth of knowledge, as well as pride in serving with NOAA. ENS Petersen did the tours of the McArthur

II and ENS Bloss did the same with the Okeanos Explorer. We learned that the McArthur II does work in mainly marine mammal and invertebrate monitoring, recording & reporting. Okeanos Explorer's mission is more for mapping the ocean floor, much of which is less well explored & recorded than the surface of the moon. We were able to explore most of each ship, seeing the engine room, bridge, galley, berthing quarters, medical facilities and working areas. On the Okeanos we even saw a submersible craft that will remotely explore at depths up to 8,000 meters.

Both of our guides were great at the job of educating us on what they do at NOAA. They answered all questions patiently & with good humor.

Future tours in stages of planning include -- behind the scenes of the Washington State Ferries, Whidby Island Naval Air Base, the USCGC Healey Icebreaker, Coast Guard facilities, and the cruise that George Rose is developing for the Navy League later this year. Please tell Byron Faber or George Rose if you have an idea of a tour you would like or a connection that will help us set up a tour.

Submitted by Byron Faber

TriWest Health Care Alliance Joins Council as Community Affiliate

When it comes to providing the best possible service to military families, we at TriWest take our role very seriously. We take pride in the fact that managing the TRICARE program for over 2.7 million beneficiaries is our only line of business. For us, serving as a TRICARE contractor is just the beginning. TriWest and TRICARE have similar logos and are often confused. TriWest Healthcare Alliance is a privately held contracted by the Department of Defense (DoD) to administer the TRICARE program.



Our company values radiate from the top down at TriWest from President and Chief Executive Officer David J. McIntyre, Jr., throughout the leadership team and to every staff member at our corporate headquarters in Phoenix and each

location across the 21-state Tricare West Region.. Every member of the TriWest team is dedicated to our customers —and committed to providing access to high-quality health care and customer service to every TRICARE beneficiary in our region.

TRICARE is cost-effective, high-quality health care available to our nation's active duty, Guard and Reserve and retired uniformed Services members and their eligible family members and survivors. TriWest received its first DoD TRICARE contract in 1996, then received a four-year contract extension in 2002. TriWest was awarded a five-year contract to administer TRICARE in the West Region in 2003, and now provides access to health care for approximately 2.7 million beneficiaries.

Comings and Goings

Navy RADM William D. French has been nominated for appointment to the rank of Rear Admiral. French is currently serving as commander, Navy Region Marianas/U.S. Pacific Command Representative, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau/ commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Marianas, Guam.

Navy RADM Scott H. Swift has been nominated for appointment to the rank of Rear Admiral. Swift is currently serving as commander, Carrier Strike Group Nine, Everett, Wash.

Navy RADM Mark A. Vance has been nominated for appointment to the rank of Rear Admiral. Vance is currently serving as commander, Carrier Strike Group Three, Everett, Wash

On board USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72), Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 131 recently gave a salute and farewell to CDR Brad Jensen as he passed the Lancer torch to CDR Leif Steinbaugh during the squadron's change of command ceremony February 2.

Jensen, Muskegon, Mich. native, reported to VAQ-131 in August 2006 as Executive Officer and assumed command in November 2007. He deployed in 2008 with the squadron in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom resulting in four months of combat missions totaling over 1,000 flight hours. Jensen will report to the Lincoln as Air Officer for his next duty station.

Steinbaugh, a Quantico, Va. native, claims Bend, Ore. as his adopted hometown. He earned his commission in May 1990 from the United States Naval Academy, where he received

a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. He has over 2,600 flight hours in various aircraft and over 820 carrier landings.

CDR Tom Huerter of Kansas City, Kansas, assumed duties as the VAQ-131 Executive Officer.

USS Louisiana (SSBN 743) (Blue) recently held a change of command ceremony at the Naval Undersea Museum on Naval Base Kitsap. CDR Blake Converse, Commanding Officer of USS Louisiana (Blue) turned over his award winning boat and crew to CDR Eric Woelper.

Since Converse, a 1987 graduate of Penn State University, took command in February 2006, the boat earned the Omaha Trophy for strategic excellence, the Battle Efficiency Award, the Edward Ney Award for the finest galley in the submarine force and a Meritorious Unit Commendation for exceptional service in strategic deterrence.

Converse was also recognized by the Navy Submarine League as the 2008 Jack N. Darby award recipient for leadership excellence.

Converse will be staying in the Northwest area, assigned to Submarine Squadron 17.

2009 Membership Directory

We will soon be receiving our new Membership Directories. Our committee has designed a new and improved cover that should delight you. Currently, the 2009 Directory project draft is underway. The new directory should be headed to the printers by April 1, 2009. I estimate that the membership mailings will occur late April.

*Submitted by Johann Schoberl
Directory Chairman*



Dave Thomas presents Earle & Sandra Smith with a framed certificate as they were honored at the March luncheon for their many years of dedicated support and service to our Navy League Council. Their devoted nurturing of the Armed Forces Gala and the Veterans Day celebration for the past several years has been inspirational and has made both events a huge success. Thank you Sandra and Earle for all that you do.

Last Call for 2009 NW Regional Conference

Last call for reservations for the Navy League Northwest Regional Conference. Please RSVP by April 7, 2009, and make this a memorable conference hosted by the Tacoma Council. All Interested BROLPN Members are eligible to attend. This is your opportunity to get involved and help to make our Council continue to be designated as an "Outstanding Council of Navy League."

Please contact Carol Meteney. See the flyer and article in the March Edition of "Now Hear This" available on the website.

Get involved!

Now is the time to step up to the plate and take an active part in Council activities. President, Dave Thomas, has issued a call for volunteers for this year so that we may continue to make a difference in our support of the Sea Services.

Think about whether you would like to work on a short term project or a very specific type of job or whether you would like to volunteer for a more long term role. There is work and fun for everyone.

If you are interested, and just want to explore the possibilities, contact Dave Thomas at 360 373-2673 or by email at Dthomas751@comcast.net or any of the officers or board members.

May 23 Dedication of the Lone Sailor Statue

On Memorial Day Weekend we will pay tribute to members of our sea services at the official dedication of the Lone Sailor Statue on the Bremerton Breakwater at 2pm on May 23 and a Memorial Day Service on Monday, May 25 on the USS Turner Joy.

For the Lone Sailor Dedication, the Navy Northwest Band will provide rousing music as we thank the many people who have made this project possible. At the same time we will honor those men and women who have given their lives to protect us past and present.

The people of Puget Sound area, particularly Kitsap County are proud of the many active duty and retired military living here. The Lone Sailor Statue will serve as a beacon to highlight our continued appreciation and support of members of the United States Navy, Coast Guard, Marines and US Flag Merchant Marines.

Please plan on attending both the Dedication Ceremony and the Memorial Day Service.

There is open seating for both events, so plan on coming early. More specifics of these events will be in the May newsletter.

Submitted by Carolyn Dankers



As we thaw out our beloved Lone Sailor and get ready for spring, it is time to mark your calendars for the Lone Sailor Dedication on May 23, 2009 during the first-ever Kitsap Harbor Festival, slated for Memorial Day weekend.

Friends of Navy Band Northwest

Navy Band Northwest would like to invite you to the upcoming Keyport Concert Sunday April 19, 2009. The concerts are FREE and open to the public and will be held on each date in the Naval Undersea Museum's Auditorium at 2:00 p.m. The April 19 program will be the "Olympic Brass Choir" with a special guest appearance by the "Lindsay Family"

Other Navy Band performances this year at the Keyport Naval Undersea Museum Auditorium include:

April 19 - Olympic Brass Choir

September 27 - "South by Northwest" Show Band

October 18 - "Cascade" Big Band

November 15 - Clarinet and Trombone Quartets

Please take a moment to view the Navy Band Northwest webpage for our public performance schedule as it is updated monthly: <https://www.cnrc.navy.mil/cnrnw/Programs/CommandandStaff/NavyBandNorthwest/NavyBandNWPerformances/index.htm>.

For additional information about Navy Band Northwest and any questions about these upcoming concerts, please contact Navy Band Northwest Public Affairs office at (360) 315-3447 or by email at NavyBandNW.CNRNW@navy.mil.

While attending our concerts, we also encourage all of our audience members to visit with the knowledgeable and friendly staff of the Naval Undersea Museum and enjoy their fine collections and displays. This one of a kind museum offers rare glimpses into the science and operation of the U.S. Navy's undersea

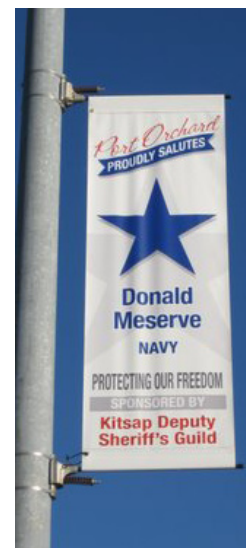
heritage. For more information on this official U.S. Navy museum please call the Curator's Office at (360) 396-5517 or visit: <http://naval.undersea.museum>.

Thank you for your support for the United States Navy and for Navy Band Northwest. We look forward to seeing you at a performance in the near future.

*Submitted by
LTJG Patrick K. Sweeten
Director, Navy Band Northwest*

Help us honor our local servicemen!

Both the service members name and the sponsor name appear on both sides of these banners.



Please visit our website at www.kitsapbluestar.org for additional information.

Blue Star Banner Program of Kitsap County
P.O. Box 841 • Seabeck, WA 98380

Any and all contributions are greatly appreciated.



Information

Please send any change of contact information to our database manager, Larry Salter. We need current mailing address, E-mail address and phone numbers for all of our members

Larry's E-mail address is lsalter@msn.com



Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council
 Navy League of the United States
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Planning Ahead

	Wednesday	Apr 1	Board of Director's meeting – 5:30 pm Reid Real Estate, Silverdale
	Tuesday	Apr 7	Deadline for reservations for 2009 NW Regional Conference
	Thursday	Apr 9	Deadline for making reservations For April Luncheon – 12:00 noon
	Tuesday	Apr 14	Monthly Luncheon Meeting – 11:30 am Keyport Undersea Museum
	Fri-Sun	Apr 17-19	2009 NW Regional Conference Tacoma Elks Lodge, Tacoma WA
	Wednesday	May 6	Board of Director's meeting – 5:30 pm Reid Real Estate, Silverdale
	Thursday	May 7	Deadline for making reservations For May Luncheon – 12:00 noon
	Tuesday	May 12	Monthly Luncheon Meeting – 11:30 am Keyport Undersea Museum
	Saturday	May 16	Armed Forces Parade Bremerton – 10 am
	Saturday	May 16	Armed Forces Gala – 5:00 pm Admiral Theatre
	Saturday	May 23	Lone Sailor Dedication – 2:00 pm Bremerton Marina
	Monday	May 25	Memorial Day Celebration – 10:00 am USS Turner Joy, Bremerton Boardwalk

This Date in History

April 6, 1909 – Commander Robert E. Peary reports reaching the North Pole

 **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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