



Now Hear This!



★ Navy League of the United States

★ Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council

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Vice Admiral McCoy will be Grand Marshall for Armed Forces Day Parade and Navy League Gala Speaker



Vice Admiral McCoy will be Grand Marshall for Armed forces Day Parade and Navy League Gala Speaker

Vice Admiral Kevin M. McCoy, Commander of Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA), will lead the 62nd Annual Armed Forces Festival and the Navy League Gala keynote speaker on May 15.

Vice Admiral McCoy is a perfect fit with our area, based upon his current responsibilities. NAVSEA accounts for nearly one-fifth of the Navy's budget and oversees four shipyards, including the Puget Sound Shipyard and Bangor, eight "warfare centers", including Keyport, four major shipbuilding locations and the NAVSEA headquarters, located at the Washington Navy Yard in Washington, D.C.

NAVSEA'S mission is to develop, deliver and maintain ships and systems on time, on cost for the United States Navy. Accordingly, it plays a crucial role in maintaining American maritime dominance, with over 100 acquisition programs under its oversight.

Next month, look for more details on the Armed Forces Festival activities in our newsletter. More information on the Gala is inside.

Submitted by Greg Jose and Carolyn Dankers

Upcoming Events - Save the Date

- ★ April 13 – RDML James Symonds, Navy League Monthly lunch
- ★ April 16 & 17 – Navy League Regional Conf-Whidbey Island
- ★ May 8-15 – Armed Forces Festival Week
- ★ May 31 – Memorial Day Service-USS Turner Joy



President's Message

Our signature and most visible programs of the year are highlighted each spring in May.

The Armed Forces Day Parade and Gala on May 15th is followed two weeks later on Memorial Day on the fan tail of the USS TURNER JOY in the Marina. CMDCM Tim Katona USN, Ret., our treasurer, is carefully preparing for this year's highly traditional Naval Ceremony. Please share the camaraderie on the TURNER JOY by remembering our fallen men and women with your friends and neighbors.

Bremerton's traditional and steadfast support of Armed Forces Day is highlighted by its colorful and patriotic parade. Our Navy League Council has proudly participated each year and has hosted notable US Navy Grand Marshals like the Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Gary Roughead and last year Vice Admiral Sam Locklear. Our Ambassador at Large Guy Stitt invited and confirmed that NAVSEA's Commanding Officer, Vice Admiral

Kevin McCoy will be this year's Grand Marshal and Gala keynote speaker.

Please pick your family's favorite spot along the parade route and help us keep our Armed Forces Day heritage alive and have some "old fashion" fun waving flags and cheering support for our service men and women. Preserving this wonderful tradition is up to each of us to get "out there" rain or shine and make it a day to be proud of our all voluntary military for standing up when it counts.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary S Gunderson



Memorial Day Wreath offered in 2009



Vice Admiral Locklear & Congressman Norm Dicks

Armed Forces Day Navy League Gala

Saturday evening, May 15, help honor representatives from the 63 shore and afloat commands in our area at a special dinner and dance. For the last decade, the Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council has invited and hosted Sailors, Marines and members of the Coast Guard at the historic Admiral Theatre in downtown Bremerton.

The evening is a wonderful opportunity for members of the community and the military to join together to enjoy a fun filled evening. This exciting party would not be possible without the generous donations of our sponsors who make it possible to host the military.

The social hour begins at 5 o'clock and the program begins at 6pm. The keynote speaker is Vice Admiral McCoy, Commander of NAVSEA. His command is responsible for all of the work done on naval ships in Bremerton, Bangor and Keyport. Congressman Norm Dicks is always one of our special invited guests and we are pleased that he and his wife are usually able to join us.

Another highlight of the evening is the awarding of the Olympic Bowl Trophy to the outstanding Trident submarine boat and its two crews. The award started 26 years ago when Will Lent was Council President.

A local group, **Slightly Bent Band**, will provide dance music and entertainment.

Tickets will be on sale soon at the Admiral Theatre. Seating is limited so buy your tickets early. Call 360 373-6810 or 360 373-6743 to make your reservation. More details will be in our next newsletter.

RDML Doug Biesel Announced as Next Commander Navy Region Northwest

As you may have read or heard by now, RDML Doug Biesel, currently the Commander of Navy Region Marianas and former Commanding Officer of Naval Base Kitsap, will be my replacement later this year.

RDML Biesel is a perfect fit as Commander of this region, and I know you will all join me in congratulating and welcoming him back to the



Great Northwest.

RDML Biesel was the CO of SUBASE Bangor when it was decided to consolidate Bremerton and Bangor into NB Kitsap, and he became NBK's first CO. After selection to Flag rank, he commanded Navy Region Midwest in Great Lakes, IL,

before going out to Guam last year.

I anticipate a change of command in the June time frame (and it will beat NAS Whidbey Island, where Anne and I got our start in the Navy). We'll get out more details as the transition process goes along.

In the meantime, we at Region NW have a lot to do to continue our support to the Fleet, Sailors and families, as well as planning for future years. I have a lot to get done before leaving, and I won't be slowing down.

All the best, Jim

RDML James A. Symonds
Commander, Navy Region Northwest

Rear Admiral Symonds on USS REAGAN



USS REAGAN Transits Straights of Magellan

Rear Admiral Jim Symonds is our April luncheon guest speaker at the Bangor Plaza on April 13th. when he'll tell us about commanding America's newest super carrier CVN 76 through the narrow inland waterway of Chile's Magellan Straights. The South American winter transit, June 2004, saved navigating through several hundred of miles of storm driven seas by not having to round Cape Horn on the trip to San Diego.

The Chilean Government not only granted permission to cross through the Straights 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 just how much we appreciate his personal support of our council. Please make your reservations early with CTC by calling 360-782-5500, bring a friend and enjoy this special "don't miss" event.

First Command's Silverdale Office Shows Support

Financial Advisors and staff in the Silverdale, Wash. office of First Command Financial Services have supported the local Navy League for more than a decade and continue to support many worthwhile causes in our area.

"We're proud to provide support for a number of events and activities in our community," says First Command District Advisor Ron Testa, a past council president and a National Director Emeritus of the Navy League. "In a community of so many dedicated military men and women, we have many opportunities to show our thanks and encouragement."

As part of the largest Armed Forces Day celebration in the country, First Command's Silverdale office has sponsored the Navy League float in Bremerton's annual Armed Forces Parade each May and has also been a major sponsor for the Armed Forces Gala held at the Admiral Theatre in Bremerton. The Silverdale team also supports a top award for the Bremerton Area Chamber of Commerce Armed Forces Day Festival Ambassador Scholarship Program, a competitive program for local high school students.

Testa says providing support for the

Continued on page 5

Ambassador Scholarship Speech Contest



Front Row (l to r) Trish, Stacie & Misty
Back Row (l to r) Carlie, Anthony & Torrie

This is the first year that our Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Navy League Council has sponsored one of the Armed Forces Festival Ambassador Scholarship Candidates. Each of the six candidates picked out a piece of paper with the name of a sponsor on it during their Orientation Meeting on Tuesday, February 16th. The candidate who picked our council's name was Anthony Zendejas, who is a senior at Klahowya Secondary School. You might recognize his name as the young man who performed his one-man play, "The Ghost Soldiers of Bataan", at last year's Veterans Day Event.

Be sure to mark your calendar to attend the "Speak Off", which is the Ambassador candidates' final judged event. It will be held in the Naval Undersea Museum's Auditorium at Keyport on **Wednesday, April 28th, 7:00 p.m.** The tickets are free, but the candidate, who has the most tickets turned in the evening of the contest, will receive an additional \$100 in scholarship money. So, please be sure to support Anthony by coming to the April 28th Speak Off contest and bring a ticket with his name printed on it.

The six finalists were selected based on their academics, extra-curricular

activities, community involvement, letters of recommendation and as essay entitled, "What Freedom Means to Me". The six finalists will do a 3 to 5-minute speech based on an interview they conducted with either a military veteran or a foreign-born national who has chosen to become an American citizen. Bring a Kleenex, because the speeches are always very inspirational!

Although the Bremerton Area Chamber of Commerce is the coordinator of the contest, the major sponsor of the Ambassador Scholarship Program is "Puget Sound Energy". "First Command" has donated the First Place \$3,000-scholarship. The "Bremerton Chamber" donated the \$1,000-Herbert Goodman Scholarship. Rex Rudee of "Hudson's Photography" always donates the photographs each year.

The \$500-sponsors are: Bank of America Home Loans, Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Navy League Council, Federal Manager's Association, Kitsap Bank, Kitsap Federal Credit Union and Land Title. The \$500-candidate sponsorships pay for the Ambassador outfits, which consist of a navy blue blazer, white turtleneck and khaki-colored skirt or slacks.

The six candidates, who will be speaking on April 28th, are: **Misty Braddock** (Bremerton High School), **Stacie Brown** (North Kitsap High School), **Trish Erhardt** (North Kitsap High School), **Torrie Oeser-Beaton** (Bremerton High School), **Carlise Rouse** (Crosspoint Academy) and **Anthony Zendejas** (Klahowya Secondary School).

Submitted by Sandra Smith

Navy League Northwest Regional Conference

April 16 and 17 are the dates set for our next Regional Conference. This year, Oak Harbor Area Regional Council is the host and the event will be held at Oak Harbor Yacht Club on Whidbey Island.

The Council has planned some exciting events for all of us, including a tour of the base. Invited speakers include Rear Admiral Don Quinn, Commander, Naval Personnel Command, Rear Admiral James Symonds, Commander, Navy Region Northwest and Captain Joe Kuzmick, the Commanding Officer of the USS Stennis.

Staff from National Navy League will provide hands on workshops for our members and the food is certain to be good.

The best part of the conference is the opportunity to meet and talk with members from other councils. Hopefully, members from Bellingham, Everett, Seattle, Lake Washington, Tacoma and Olympia will attend. Our council has the reputation for having the most members attending so plan to come and help maintain our record.

Byron Faber is setting up a tour that we would enjoy on Friday, April 16 before the conference starts. The weather should be beautiful and the flowers in full bloom.

There will be a sign up at the luncheon or you can contact Carolyn Dankers, c.dankers@wavecable.com or 360 769-7415 to make certain that you receive the details, directions and lodging options as soon as we receive them.



Beautiful Oak Harbor – the location for the Navy League NW Regional Conference.

USS KENTUCKY Change Of Command Ceremony



Sailors from the USS KENTUCKY SSSBN 737 (GOLD) filled each side of the Bangor Chapel with center seating reserved for family and guests of each Commander about to execute the formal Change of Command Ceremony on February 19, 2010. Rear Admiral Scott R. Van Buskirk Deputy Commander and

COS of the Pacific Fleet was certainly a welcome guest speaker along with Captain David Ratte CO of SS Seventeen. RDML Frank Caldwell attended as a guest.

Captain Ratte presented awards to Commanding Officer CDR Benjamin J. Pearson, who then with an exchange of salutes and saying the traditional “I am

relieved”, the USS KENTUCKY “Gold” had a new Commanding Officer CDR Joseph A. Nosse.

CDR Pearson is a native of Gig Harbor and lives there with his wife Renee and son Boden. Sharing a few memories of his command made the ceremony special and generated several warm hearted laughs. A couple of years ago CDR Pearson as CO of the KENTUCKY presented a Great White Fleet Centennial Plaque to Bremerton’s Mayor Cary Bozeman at the Armed Forces Day Parade on behalf of the US Navy and our Navy League council. The “Port Visit” was one of six Puget Sound cities visited by the coal fueled fleet in 1908.

USS KENTUCKY’S new Commanding Officer CDR Joseph Nosse invited a few guests to tour the USS NEBRASKA with him, his wife Naydu and children Madeleine and Benjamin. Joining the tour I was below decks when “KENTUCKY ARRIVING” was announced over the IMC and I felt honored to have been on board for that special moment for a new Commanding Officer and his family.

Submitted by Gary S Gunderson

First Command’s Silverdale Office Shows Support (Cont’d)

Ambassador Scholarship Program is one of the most rewarding ways First Command is involved in the local community. “We know these young men and women have worked hard to earn this scholarship and to show the community what they’re capable of,” he says.

Advisors Peter Carlo, Tom Carpenter, Todd Taylor and Cheryl Zudell at First Command’s Silverdale office also supported the Return to Service ceremony for USS Ohio at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor in 2006, after it was dry-docked for three years to undergo modifications to its weapons systems.

Last year, First Command provided support for Ride 4 Hope, a 3,900-mile cross-country bicycle ride in support of the Boys and Girls Clubs and the Wounded Warrior Project.

Testa says First Command wanted to become involved with Ride 4 Hope immediately after learning about the planned ride. “Cheryl Zudell brought the idea that her client [David Mackovjak] was taking on a major challenge with his twin teenage sons,” Testa says. “We knew what he was doing was going to be a major achievement and would help two great causes.”

Many of the Silverdale Office Advisors and staff are also military families. Their active duty family members were honored last year through First Command’s sponsorship of the Blue Star Banner Program of Kitsap County. Their names proudly wave on seven banners along Silverdale Way near Old Town Silverdale.

Also in 2009, First Command was

a major sponsor of the installation of the Lone Sailor Statue, located on the Bremerton Waterfront at Sinclair Inlet. In 2010, First Command will sponsor re-enlistment programs to be held at the Lone Sailor Statue.

First Command Financial Services and its subsidiaries assist American families in their efforts to build wealth, reduce debt and pursue their lifetime financial goals and dreams—focusing on consumer behavior as the first and most powerful determinant of results. Through personalized financial plans that emphasize accumulating wealth while reducing risk, First Command Financial Advisors have established lasting relationships with hundreds of thousands of client families since 1958.

Judge Advocate George Rose



Each month, we are highlighting a member of our Board of Directors. This month, we are highlighting George Rose, who is serving as our Board's "Judge Advocate". The role of the Judge Advocate on our Board is to assure that we have a quorum at our meetings and that we follow "Roberts Rules" and our Navy League Council's By-Laws.

George Rose has the perfect background for this position. Being a retired Detective for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, he has had to deal with a lot more difficult situations than just keeping our Board members in line.

George joined the LA County Sheriff's Department back in 1959. He was assigned to the first helicopter to ever be used in the U.S. for patrol functions. He served on Vice Detail, on the Special Weapons Team (SWT) and with the Special Enforcement Bureau (SEB). George was serving as a Detective in Fugitive Detail when he retired with a total of 33 years.

While working at the Sheriff's Department, George also found time to serve six years in the California National Guard. He trained at Fort Ord, Fort Knox, Hunter Liggett, Camp Roberts and Fort Irwin. He served as part of the California National Guard's Armored Engineers.

George and his wife, Kay, decided

to move from their home in La Palma, California when they retired. Kay loved the mountains and George liked the ocean, so they moved up to Port Orchard in 1998 to a home on five acres. After ten years in that home, they decided it was time to downsize to a home on one acre in Gig Harbor. Both George and Kay have been members

of our Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Navy League Council for eleven years. Oh, and did I mention that Kay is a retired Federal Agent with the DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration). We are so pleased to have them as members of our Council!

Submitted by Sandra Smith

Bremerton NJROTC Youth Helps Others

Most citizens are aware that NJROTC instills citizenship in its cadets, builds self-esteem, self-discipline, self-confidence, and life-long leadership skills. One way in which we do this is through service to community. The Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC), Bremerton High School in Bremerton, WA has proved its dedication to effective community service by achieving its goal of feeding 5000 hungry men, women and children in Bremerton and the surrounding rural area over this past holiday season. In a community service project labeled "Operation Feed 5000" The Knight Company cadets began collecting non-perishable food items mid October outside of the Bremerton Safeway stores and Albertson's, and the Naval Base Kitsap, Bremerton Commissary. They collected well over six thousand food items and made distributions to area families for Thanksgiving holiday and did the same on the last day of school, December 18th during our Operation Christmas Child. The cadets personally made delivery of the gift boxes to many of the recipients. MSgt Brooks, one of the two instructors of Knight Company and who oversaw these projects noted: "the generosity of the local businesses and Bremerton families in donating to this worthy cause was phenomenal. Not only did the area families benefit, the cadets learned many valuable lessons in providing service to community."

Though a large quantity of food had already been distributed for Thanksgiving, there was still plenty of food available for Christmas distribution. After providing over 1500 pounds of food to the local community for Christmas,

we found ourselves with plenty of boxed food to distribute. We recently contacted the local food bank and they weighed out 3050 more pounds of food that went directly to the food bank shelves.

Similar community service projects at Knight Company were run concurrently with "Operation Feed 5000". One was "Operation Mad Dash For Toys" which is modeled after the Marine Corps annual "Toys For Tots" toy drive. This project is quickly reaching its goal of providing many age appropriate toys to local area children. In addition, the cadets individually contributed and put together 28 Christmas gift and toy boxes which were donated to Operation Christmas Child (a project of the Christian relief and evangelism organization, Samaritan's Purse). Those individually wrapped gift boxes, each with a \$7 check to cover postage, were stuffed with toys, school supplies, hard candy and hygiene items and delivered to children around the world who are suffering because of war, natural disaster, poverty, illness, or neglect. Operation Support Our Troops has been a continuing project where we collect books, hygiene items, candy, etc for our troops in the Middle East. To date, we have mailed out several Support Our Troops care packages before and after Christmas.

Our latest endeavor was to collect/donate money to the Haitians and it was decided to provide three separate checks of \$460 each to Red Cross, Samaritan's Purse and World Vision. In addition, we are collecting rice destined for a NJROTC adopted school in Africa. Our goal by the end of the month is to collect 1,000 pounds of rice.

Navy League of the United States Mission Statement and Goals

A civilian organization dedicated to informing the American people and their government that the United States of America is a maritime nation and that its national defense and economic well being are dependent upon strong sea services-United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, United States Coast Guard and the United States Merchant Marine.



Navy League Goals

1. Educate national leaders and the nation.
2. Support the men and women of the sea services.
3. Provide assistance to the sea service families.
4. Support the youth program.

Planning Ahead

March 25	Deadline for submitting articles for May newsletter
March 29	PSNBA Breakfast
March 29	Membership Committee mtg, 4pm Legacy Group, Silverdale
March 31	Mackie Award Newsletter and Public Affairs Award submission due to National
April 6	USS Stennis Tour, call Byron Faber
April 7	Board Meeting
April 8	Luncheon registration deadline, call CTC 360 782.5500
April 10	Submarine Ball, Bangor Plaza
April 13	RDML Symonds-monthly luncheon speaker
April 16-17	Regional NL Conference Oak Harbor Area Council Nominations for Area, Region and National Leadership due
April 20	Tour of TTF and Submarine at Bangor, Call B. Faber
April 26	Membership Committee mtg, 4pm Legacy Group, Silverdale
April 28	Armed Forces Ambassadors Final Speeches, 7-9pm Keyport Museum

Chief Petty Officers Invited to a Special Luau

On May 14, the Port Orchard Pavilion will be the setting for a special night of fun and food for area Chief Petty Officers and their dates.

This is a new event for the Armed Forces Festival Week and is a joint effort of the Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council, Port Orchard Chamber of Commerce, Bremerton-Chamber of Commerce and PSNBA to honor and thank the men and women who form the backbone of the Navy. Members of the various support groups are also invited to attend.

Cris Larsen, Carolyn Dankers and Leah Wattree are planning the event.

Watch for more news in the next newsletter on this fun event.

Change of Mailing Address

All mail for our council should be sent to :

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