



# NOW HEAR THIS!



## Navy League of the United States Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council

Volume 59, Issue 8

August 2007

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### NEW MEMBERS

*Welcome Aboard*

- ★ Douglas Carpenter

## Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Navy League Welcomes A New Leader – Rear Admiral James A. Symonds, Commander, Navy Region Northwest

During a change-of-command ceremony Wednesday, July 11, Rear Adm. James A. Symonds replaced Rear Adm. William French, who was unexpectedly sent to lead the US Naval Forces Marianas on Guam.



Rear Admiral James A. Symonds is a native of Sodus, N.Y. He received a bachelor of science degree in mathematics from State University of New York at Albany in 1975. He was commissioned at Aviation Officer Candidate School, Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla. in September 1975 and designated a Naval Flight Officer in July 1976.

Rear Adm. Symonds served one operational tour as an A-6 Intruder Bombardier/Navigator in Attack Squadron 115 (VA-115), aboard USS Midway (CV 41), homeported in Yokosuka, Japan. He was selected for pilot training and earned his wings as a Naval Aviator in August 1983, then returned to NAS Whidbey Island. He served two operational tours with VA-196, including two deployments aboard USS Constellation (CV 64) and one on USS Independence (CV-62) (Operation Desert Shield).

In October 1992, he reported to VA-165 as Executive Officer, deploying aboard USS Nimitz (CVN 68) in 1993, and he

assumed command of the squadron in October 1993. In 1995, he was selected to attend Navy Nuclear Power training.

Rear Adm. Symonds served as Executive Officer of USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69), including a Mediterranean/Arabian Gulf deployment in 1998.

He assumed command of USS Nashville (LPD 13) in November 1999 and deployed to the Mediterranean in early 2001. He was the second Commanding Officer of USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), from August 2003 to November 2005, and he led the ship through a change of homeport from Norfolk, Va. to San Diego, Calif. and training toward its maiden deployment.

Rear Adm. Symonds' shore assignments include two tours as an instructor at VA-128, the A-6 Fleet Replacement Squadron; Command of Medium Attack Weapons School at NAS Whidbey Island; Air Operations Officer, US Sixth Fleet; and Deputy Director of Operations for Counterdrug Operations in US Southern Command, Miami, Fla. He was nominated for promotion to the rank of Rear Admiral (lower half) in April 2005, and reported in December 2005 to Washington, D.C. as the Director of the Chief of Naval Operations Environmental Readiness Division (N45). He assumed his current position as Commander, Navy Region Northwest, in July 2007.



## President's Corner

Sunday morning (22 July) I saw a submarine heading south in Puget

Sound. This one was different. The front of the sail was curved in a flare up from the deck. That identifies it as one of the SEAWOLF class. In fact, it was USS SEAWOLF, never before been in these waters. Later that afternoon, at Naval Bases Kitsap, Bremerton, we welcomed the newest addition to the Pacific Northwest Fleet. We want the officers and men of the SEAWOLF to know that this community welcomes them. SEAWOLF is a sister ship of the USS JIMMY CARTER which has also been home ported here. Only one other SEAWOLF class submarine was built, the USS CONNECTICUT, and it will soon join the (Wolf?) pack!

Naming of submarines has evolved over their history and is the subject of a separate article in this newsletter. These three submarines arguably represent the finest submarine design ever built, and I am happy that the Navy has decided to operate them from here.

I may be accused of spending too much space on a submarine issue, but in fact, the change of homeport of these three ships is just a part of a much larger shift of US Naval forces from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Within a very few years, 60% of the US Fleet will be home ported in the Pacific. We can expect to see additional surface ships arriving here as well as submarines. The Pacific Northwest came in a close second to San Diego as home to the next carrier to be shifted to the Pacific. It is incumbent on the members of the Navy League to support the Fleet build up in our region, and to explain to our neighbors and friends the local mission of the Navy League in this

region and the importance of sea power to our national security. So, this article is not just about submarines or even just about the Navy.

August is Coast Guard month. Our next luncheon will honor the Coast Guard, and we will hear from CDR Will Noftsker, the Officer in Charge of a brand new Coast Guard unit right here in Kitsap County. I am looking forward to finding out what the CG will be doing in our area. I hope to see many of you there.

*Stan Mack*

## Naming of Submarines

Most of the earliest submarines were given letter and number designations instead of names, like S-36. Then they started to be named after fish, or at least sea creatures. This seemed appropriate, because they swam underwater. When the first ballistic missile submarines were built (41 for freedom) they were named after presidents. (There were a few exceptions like Daniel Boone and Kamehameha.) The next iteration of naming was cities, like Baltimore and Honolulu. By the time the Trident SSBNs were being built, the battleships (which had been named for states) were gone, so we began to name them for states. There have been a number of exceptions to these rules. RICHARD B. RUSSELL and GLENARD P. LIPSCOMB were submarines of a class that was still being named for fish, and HENRY M. JACKSON, of course, is a TRIDENT which nominally should have been named for a state. (It would have been RHODE ISLAND, but the Ocean State declined the honor, so it should probably not surprise us that their state bird is a chicken. I am not kidding!) ADM. Rickover is supposed to

have replied to a question as to why we do not name submarines after fish anymore with the following quip: "Fish don't vote." I believe this is a good illustration of why we need a Navy League. Now we have a class of ships which started to be named after fish (SEAWOLF), but the second one was named after a president (JIMMY CARTER), and the third one was named after a state (CONNECTICUT). We stopped building the class after the first three. Could it have been because we couldn't figure out how to name any more of them? If you have any ship naming trivia or stories, please e-mail them to Norma Parker, [nparker@reidrealestate.com](mailto:nparker@reidrealestate.com), and she will put them in the next issue.

*Submitted by Stan Mack*

## Public Invited Navy League Luncheon August 14

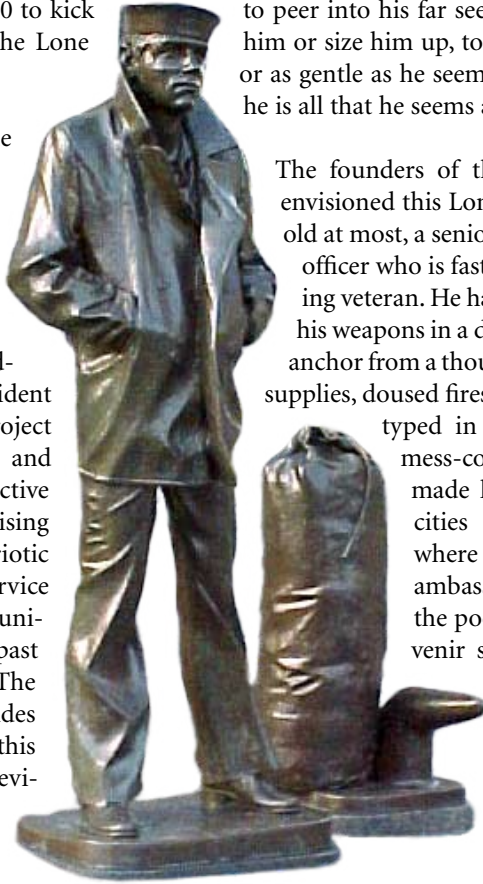
The monthly luncheon for the Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Navy League will be held on Tuesday, August 14th, at 11:30 a.m. in the Bangor Plaza (formerly called the Trident Ballroom, CMO) Naval Base Kitsap - Bangor. In celebration of the U.S. Coast Guard's birthday, Commander Will Noftsker, USCG, will serve as the guest speaker. He will be discussing Coast Guard operations in Kitsap County.

All guests must RSVP and enter only through the Main Gate off Luoto Road. Reservations are required. Call Concurrent Technologies Corporation (CTC) (360-782-5500) no later than Wednesday, August 8th. **Note that this is a new RSVP phone number.** The cost of the luncheon is \$12/person.

## C. Keith Birkenfeld Memorial Trust Awards a \$100,000 Grant for the Lone Sailor Statue Memorial on the Bremerton Waterfront

The Board of Directors of the C. Keith Birkenfeld Memorial Trust have approved a grant of \$100,000 to kick off the fund raising for the Lone Sailor Statue Memorial.

The Memorial on the Bremerton, Washington waterfront has been presented by the Navy League of the United States, Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council. Under the leadership of Council President Stan Mack, along with Project Co-Chairmen, Ron Testa and Tim Thomson. This active Navy League Council is raising funds to donate this patriotic statue to honor the Sea Service members of our communities in the Northwest ...past ...present ...and future. The Bremerton Harbor provides an excellent location for this statue. Currently, the revitalization of downtown Bremerton includes its Marina, which is expected to be completed in early 2008.



ater of the Navy Memorial. Visitors to the Memorial are immediately drawn to him to peer into his far seeing eyes, to admire him or size him up, to see if he's as tough or as gentle as he seems. Visitors find that he is all that he seems and probably more.

The founders of the Navy Memorial envisioned this Lone Sailor at 25 years old at most, a senior second class petty officer who is fast becoming a seagoing veteran. He has done it all -- fired his weapons in a dozen wars, weighed anchor from a thousand ports, tracked supplies, doused fires, repelled boarders, typed in quadruplicate and mess-cooked, too. He has made liberty call in great cities and tiny villages, where he played tourist, ambassador, missionary to the poor, adventurer, souvenir shopper and friend to new lands. His shipmates remember him with pride and tell their grandchildren stories, some of which, like him, are seven feet tall.

More information on the Memorial is available on the website: [www.Lonesailor-Bremerton.org](http://www.Lonesailor-Bremerton.org). Our thanks to Dave Shafer, webmaster extraordinaire. Information on how to make donations to this project is on the website.

The Lone Sailor is a composite of the U.S. Navy bluejacket, past, present and future. He's called the Lone Sailor, yet he is hardly ever alone, standing there on the broad granite plaza which forms the amphithe-

## Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council Receives 2006 Outstanding Award



Larry Salter

The Navy League of the United States Northwest Region President, Ron Testa, has announced that the Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council will be one of fourteen councils awarded the

prestigious award of 2006 Outstanding Council at the 2007 Navy League National Convention on October 30 thru

November 4th in Palm Desert.

The other Outstanding Northwest council was Lake Washington. Additional councils receiving the award are Annapolis, Fort Lauderdale, Golden Isles, Hampton Roads, Mayport, National Capital, New York, Richmond, Saint Augustine, San Diego, Santa Barbara and Space Coast.

Congratulations to Larry Salter for an outstanding job as 2006 President.

## The Irving Allen Memorial Restoration Project

A memorial honoring the late Irving Allen was built in 1979 for his community contributions and support of the local Sea Services by the Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council of Navy League near the Sylvan Way Branch of the Kitsap Regional Library. Sometime last year vandals had stolen the brass propeller that along with a bronze plaque was the main focal point of the Allen Memorial. When Port Orchard businessman, Dick Vlist, heard of the damage from Irving's widow, his long standing admiration and friendship compelled him to not only rebuild the site, but also improve it.

Dick Vlist enlisted numerous volunteers for both the labor and materials. Some of those volunteers include Darryl Lindsey and Bill Arness of Hard Rock, Inc. who did all of the concrete work; T. J. Proteau who donated the 24" brass propeller; Ron Blitz of Hanks Sheet Metal who was responsible for the cutting, welding and installation; Eric Neece of Tacoma Screw; Robert Foster of Kitsap Peninsula Machine Works; Clear Creek Nursery; Brian McConaughy; and the staff of Kitsap Regional Library, Sylvan Way Branch

Our thanks go out to everyone who made this project possible. Next time you are in East Bremerton, stop by the library and visit the memorial. It is a very special place.

## Outstanding Youths Receive Awards

Awards were presented to four outstanding young people in May and June for excellence in leadership and patriotism. The Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medal was presented to the outstanding NJROTC Cadets from South Kitsap, Bremerton and Port Angeles High Schools as well as the Sea Cadet of the Year from our own Kitsap Battalion. The Council also presented a check for \$125.00 to each of the high school units to assist with funding their cadets to leadership and other training.

Submitted by Paul Lucas  
Youth Programs Chair



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## Planning Calendar

- Tuesday August 14 Monthly Luncheon Meeting, Bangor Plaza  
Speaker: CDR Will Noftsker  
United States Coast Guard
- Monday August 27 USS John C Stennis Tiger Cruise
- Wednesday September 4 Board of Directors Meeting 6:00 pm.  
Reid Real Estate, Silverdale
- Tuesday September 11 Monthly Luncheon Meeting, Bangor Plaza
- Monday November 11 NL Veterans Day Observance  
Kitsap County Fairgrounds

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## Expanded Newsletter

*Access this link to find more Navy League news, stories and photographs.*

<http://brem-olympic.nlus.us>



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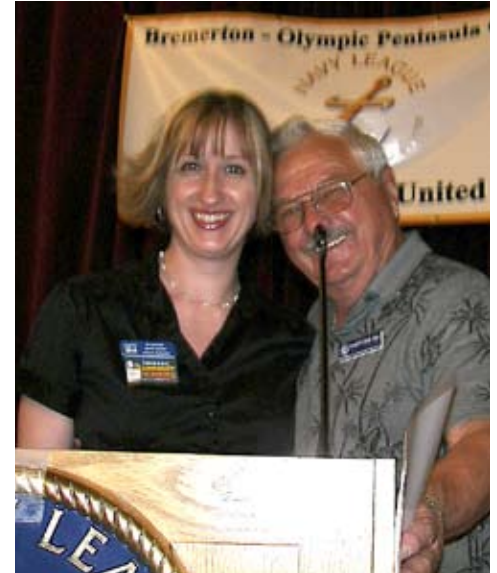
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# Navy League in Action



Captain J. D. Dowell, CO NUWC, Keyport, speaks to the luncheon attendees at the July luncheon. Captain Dowell gave a lively and informative presentation on terrorism which was interrupted with an unexpected short “Hello” from Rear Adm. Bill French and an introduction to our group of Rear Adm. James Symonds.

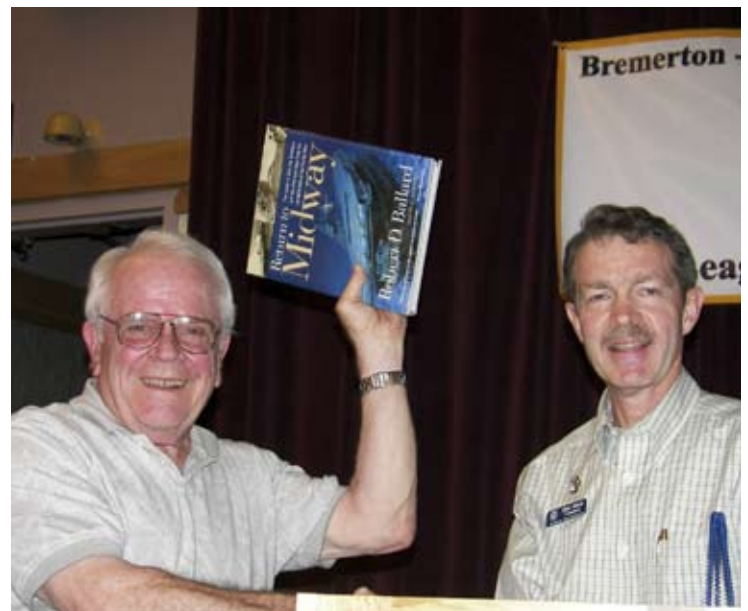
Stan Mack proudly displays the plaque awarded to Navy League for “Best Entry, Military & Veterans Groups” for their participation in Columbia Bank’s Fathoms O’ Fun Festival.

Dick Vlist smiles broadly as he is congratulated for his “job well done” for coordinating the Irving Allen Memorial Restoration Project by Ruth Bond, Branch Manager of Kitsap Regional Library, Sylvan Way Branch. (See Article on Page 4.)



Captain J. D. Dowell assists NL President, Stan Mack, in announcing the winners (posted below) for the raffle at the July Luncheon.

- Mal Wright** – Free lunch at the August luncheon
- Al Knight** – Dinner for four at Patriot’s Landing
- Norma Parker** – Dinner for four at Patriot’s Landing



Will Lent displays a book, “Return to Midway” presented to him at the July luncheon by Stan Mack as a “thank you” for his wonderful presentation at the May Luncheon on the Battle of the Coral Sea and at the June Luncheon on the Battle of Midway. If you missed these presentations, you missed a wonderful lesson in naval history expertly presented by our own Will Lent. Thanks, Will, for all your hard work.

# Bud Hawk Awarded Legion of Honor Medal



John, Bud Hawk was awarded the prestigious “Legion of Honor” medal by the French government at a ceremony held at the Naval Undersea Museum Auditorium at Keyport on June 28. “I am not a hero” Bud told an audience of over 100. “The heroes are not here. I’m also not a winner. There are no winners in a war. There are only relative losers.” The award was presented by Frederic Desagneaux of the French Consulate in San Francisco to thank him for helping liberate their country from the German occupation 63 years ago. Bud



had already received the United States “Medal of Honor” and four “Purple Hearts” for his efforts in August of 1944. Bud was only 18 at the time.

Our thanks to every one of our Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Navy League Council that helped put this award ceremony together. A special thanks to Byron Faber for providing his delicious “homemade cakes.” Wonderful, right down to the homemade frosting.

## “SEAPOWER” GOES ONLINE

We have been waiting for this, and it has happened! “Seapower Magazine” is now online and interactive. It has all the features of “Seapower’s” print edition, however, it comes earlier, it is fully searchable, it has navigation tools for ease of use, hot links to other sites, and no new software is required. Members have the option of choosing digital or print versions. As more and more people shift to online, the reduction in costs of printing and mailing will be huge, freeing money to be used for other projects in support of our mission. Test drive it soon at: <http://www.seapower-digital.com/seapower/sample/>

*Submitted by Stan Mack*

