



NOW HEAR THIS!



Navy League of the United States Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council

Volume 60, Issue 12

December 2007

2007 COUNCIL OFFICERS

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Vice President	Guy Stitt 360.373.2686
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NEW MEMBERS

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| ★ Steve Bauer | ★ Jerry Lampert |
| ★ T.R. Clouthier | ★ Mark Lowe |
| ★ Edward Garrity | ★ Gary Nystul |
| ★ James Harlan | ★ Anne Symonds |

Our current membership total is 524!

Veterans Day Ceremony



(Top Row) Sea Cadets performing "Color Guard" duties at the Veterans Day event. Stan Mack, N/L President, checking out the Lone Sailor information at Navy League booth attended by Carolyn Dankers and Norma Parker. Sandra Smith and the Jurgen

Brian's "military memorabilia" exhibit. (Bottom Row) Guy Stitt, Senator Patty Murray, Carol Meteney and NL President Stan Mack. Guy Stitt, Carol Meteney, Senator Maria Cantwell and NL President Stan Mack at the Veterans Day event.

Hero's Welcome

Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council helped sponsor the Hero's Welcome celebration Nov. 3rd at Jackson Park Community Center. The ceremony was coordinated by the Fleet and Family Service Center to honor the Individual Augmentees, who have served in the Global War on Terror and their families. Certificates of Appreciation were and a gift bag was presented to the adults and patriotic pins to the children.

The guest speaker, Rear Admiral Stuart Platt (USN RET), is the author of Letters from the Front Lines, an account

of the lives and experiences of Americans at war in Iraq and Afghanistan through a collection of their correspondence. Rear Admiral James Symonds, Navy Region Northwest and Capt. Reid Tanaka, Commanding Officer, Naval Base Kitsap, were also a part of the program. Beautiful music was presented by soloist LCDR Schneirla and the Navy Band. A reception followed along with fun activities for the children and displays from Navy programs and support organizations – including Navy League!

Submitted by Tina Salter



President's Message

Folks, this is my last President's message. It has been a great year for me and for the Council.

This is a great organization. I cannot say enough about the quality of volunteers and the level of effort that they contribute to run all of the programs and all of the events. I believe that we have fulfilled our Navy League Mission Statement and supported our Navy League Goals throughout this year. If you missed the Annual Meeting on 13 November, please see the President's report on the website. It is a good summary of what we accomplished this year. I am very happy to have Guy Stitt relieve me as President at our Installation Dinner on January 19th. Guy has great ideas and great energy, and I am confident that he will continue the high level of performance of this Council. The guest speaker at the Installation Dinner will be VADM Mel Williams. He was Commander of Submarine Group Nine from 2003 to 2005, so many of you met him when he was here. His relief was RADM Frank Drennan to whom we just said goodbye, as his change of command occurred on 8 November. The new Commander is RDML Tim Giardina who was here before as Commander Submarine Squadron 17 from 2001 to 2003. The name of the command has also changed to Submarine Group TRIDENT, because the responsibility now includes both Bangor and King's Bay, Georgia. So, it seems like at least our submarine leadership comes back to us here in the Pacific Northwest.

The Veteran's Day Ceremony was a great success. For the first time we had both Washington Senators and Congressman Norm Dicks. Each one offered heartfelt thanks to our veterans for their service and promises of support for veteran's programs in the future. The principle speaker was John Lee, the Washington State Director of Veteran's Affairs. Over 30 veterans and military support organizations supported and participated in the ceremony, but it is the Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council of the Navy League that provides the leadership and direction to get all these

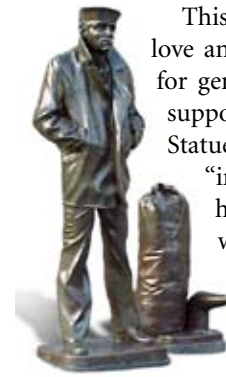
moving parts to work together, specifically, Earle and Sandra Smith. The Knight's of Columbus and the Kitsap Battalion of the Sea Cadets performed the flag ceremonies. It was particularly gratifying to see the youth from this Navy League supported organization participating in this ceremony and performing flawlessly.

Carol Meteney and I were able to capitalize on the opportunity to sit down with Senator Maria Cantwell at the Veteran's Day Ceremony. We briefed her on the Navy League Legislative Agenda. She was very receptive and especially interested in the Coast Guard agenda as she is on the Transportation Committee which oversees the CG. This helps fulfill our goal to educate our national leaders on the importance of our sea services.

Have a happy holiday season, and please remember to keep our deployed service members in your prayers especially at this time of year. Thanks for the opportunity to serve you as your president for this year. It has been a great experience for me.

Stan Mack

The Perfect Gift



This year, give the gift of love and pride that will last for generations. Share your support of the Lone Sailor Statue as you give a gift "in memory of" or "in honor of" someone who is special to you.

The Lone Sailor Statue represents our rich naval history and the brave men and women who have served their country or are currently serving. The seven foot bronze statue reminds us of the Honor, Courage and Commitment found in our friends and family in uniform.

This is the perfect time to remember them and say "Thank you."

Gift giving is easy. Just fill out the form below or contact any of the Council officers.

For more information check out the website for current information.

<http://www.lonesailor-bremerton.org/>
Submitted by Carolyn Dankers

Three Attend National Convention

Ron Testa, Carol Meteney and Norma Parker from our Council attended the [Navy League of the United States](#) 105th annual national convention at Desert Springs beginning with opening ceremonies on Thurs., Oct 1, 2007. The Palm Springs Navy League Council, headed by local businessman John Easton, hosted the four-day event that is brought more than 500 members and guests from around the world.

One of the highlights of the convention was the Sea Services Awards Luncheon on Friday, November 2nd, 2007 where more than 20 Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine military and civilian personnel received highly coveted awards for outstanding service, particularly while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom in support of the Global War on Terror. The guest speaker for the awards luncheon was MajGen. John Kelly, the commanding general of the I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF, Forward) which is home based at the Marine Corps Base in Camp Pendleton,

Calif.

Other convention highlights included a K9 drug and bomb detection demonstration by the Coast Guard's new special operations unit - DOG (Deployable Operations Group). The demonstration included a static display of a 25' Defender class boat used by Coast Guard dive teams and tactical law enforcement teams to board vessels that are noncompliant or of high interest. Smith and other Navy League members had the opportunity to learn about the current challenges facing the sea services during a panel discussion featuring MajGen. Kelly and senior leaders from the Navy, Coast Guard and the Maritime Administration.

Closing out the convention was the Commandant of the Marine Corps [Gen. James T. Conway](#), the dinner guest speaker. Gen. Conway commanded I MEF during two combat tours in Iraq and later served as the director of operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington, D.C.

Captain's Corner - Here's to our Sailors

by Captain Bradley Johanson, Commanding Officer of the USS John C. Stennis



Hello Dear Friends,

It was a true pleasure during the November Navy League luncheon to honor the courage and commitment of our comrades in arms, the members of the United

States Marine Corps. Over the past 30 years I have had the wonderful opportunity to witness first hand many of the traits of these exemplary warriors.

While assigned to Attack Squadron 145 I had the honor of attending training at the Marines Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One, an absolute center of excellence in training aviators in the art of Close Air Support for our forces on the ground. During my training at Test Pilot School I had the opportunity to train with some of the Marine Corps finest aviators, including members of the A-6 community and Marine helicopter pilots. I also had the privilege of deploying with several Marine F/A-18 squadrons aboard Aircraft Carriers with Air Wings that mixed the talents of the USN and USMC. But I think the time I got to see the most of how the Marines operate was during my command tour aboard USS DENVER (LPD 9), a Marine transport vessel, where we deployed to the Gulf as an Amphibious Readiness Group (ARG). This deployment was specifically in support of bi-national exercises with Jordan and Kuwait, and to show our regional allies how highly we respected our commitments

to regional stability. During this deployment I got to see first hand our Marines in action on the ground in the Middle East and how much they shaped the perceptions of our friends and allies with regard to the professionalism, readiness and war fighting acumen of the United States of America. It was during this time that Al Qaeda affiliated terrorists ambushed our Marines on Faylaka Island, but our warriors gave no ground, and when fired upon they held firm and brought those terrorists to justice. Their dedication is unmatched in the world today. There is no force that can stand toe to toe with our Marines. They are the best, most dedicated and committed fighting force in the world.

The service of our Marines is something we should never ever take for granted. They are the true blue Americans that keep our nation free. They are the exemplary fighting force that we should all aspire to replicate within every service, every organization.

As each of us reflects upon our thankfulness for the freedoms we enjoy, the quality of life we live and the security of our nation, we should also think of the sacrificial service of our frontline forces, and those who give the very most are our Marines. To our Marines the words that express this the best are Semper Fidelis - Always Faithful. Oorah Marines! Your Navy is proud of you!

Warmest regard,
Brad

Bulletin Board

from the Board of Directors

■ **Installation Dinner** – Your board is looking for a few good people to form the Installation Dinner Committee. Our installation of new officers will occur on the evening of January 19, 2008 at Bangor Plaza. Our guest speaker will be Vice Admiral Melvin Williams, Deputy Commander U.S. Fleet Forces Command and former Commander of Submarine Group Nine. If you are interested in assisting with preparations (invitations, reservations, decorations, setup, or other) for the dinner, please contact the Installation Committee Chair, David Thomas, at email: DThomas751@aol.com or phone: 360-373-2673.

■ **Luncheon Costs** – Beginning at the November 2007 luncheon, the cost per person will rise to \$15.00. The Board of Directors decided to raise the charge to fully cover luncheon charges for our non-paying guests such as speakers, Coast Guardsman of the Year, Marine of the Year, and Sailors of the Quarter. The \$15.00 charge will also include a door prize ticket for each person; the door prize being a free lunch.

■ **Membership Directory** – Last chance to correct member's information in the Membership Directory. We need your correct address, phone number and e-mail address. Please contact Carolyn Dankers by e-mail at c.dankers@wavecable.com for all updates.

Relationship with Moscow is Topic for Dec 11th Navy League Luncheon

The monthly luncheon for the Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Navy League will be held on Tuesday, December 11th, at 11:30 a.m. in the Bangor Plaza, Naval Base Kitsap - Bangor. CDR Bob Nugent, a former Assistant Naval Attaché to Moscow, will serve as our guest speaker. He will relay to us some of his experiences and will give us his perspective on the current relationship between our country and President Putin.

The N/L members and the public are invited to attend, but must make reservations and enter only through the Main Gate off Luoto Road. Call Concurrent Technologies Corporation (CTC) (360-782-5500) no later than Wednesday, November 5th. The cost of the luncheon is \$15/person.

Submitted by Sandra Smith

Happy Birthday, Marines



The Honor Guard of the United States Marine Corps presents the cake in celebration of the 232nd birthday of the United States Marine Corp at the November 13th Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council luncheon.



Corporal William McLean, Marine Security Force Company, Bangor, displays his plaque as he is acknowledged as the 2007 Marine of the Year by Alice Thomas in front of the Toys for Tots contributions collected at the Nov. 13 luncheon. Toys for Tots will be distributed at the Sun Pavilion on December 19



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

■ Wednesday	December 5 6:00 pm	Board of Director's Meeting Reid Real Estate, Silverdale
■ Tuesday	December 11 11:30 am	Monthly Luncheon Meeting, Bangor Plaza Speaker – CDR Bob Nugent Former Asst Naval Attaché to Moscow
Tuesday	December 25	Merry Christmas
Tuesday	January 1, 2008	Happy New Year
■ Wednesday	January 2	Board of Director's Meeting Reid Real Estate, Silverdale
■ Tuesday	January 8	Monthly Luncheon Meeting, Bangor Plaza
■ Saturday	January 19	Installation Dinner Bangor Plaza

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On This Date

1941 - Japanese carrier aircraft attack U.S. Pacific Fleet based in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

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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