




Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council  
Navy League of the United States  
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## 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 it's 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.**



# NOW HEAR THIS!

NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES  
BREMERTON-OLYMPIC PENINSULA COUNCIL



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December 2011

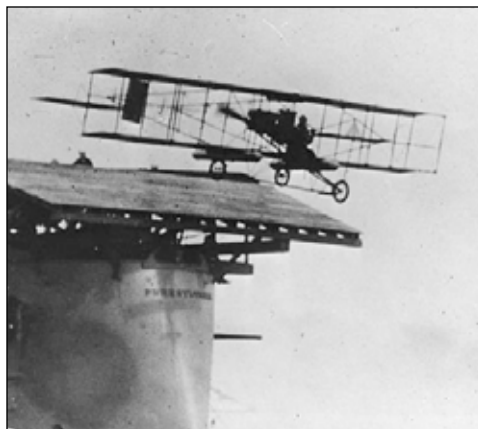
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## Centennial of Naval Aviation NL Luncheon on Dec 13th



*The take off and Eugene Ely w/wife and Capt. Pond on board USS Pennsylvania, 18 Jan. 1911.*

The Centennial has been celebrated throughout the year with air shows, static displays, port visits, fly-overs, World War II War Birds and other antique displays and presentations on the significance of Naval Aviation in the past 100 years.

The official Centennial Date was May 8, 2011—the date the first Naval aircraft was requisitioned. Naval Aviation began as a result of the vision of men like Captain Washington Chambers (arranged to procure the first Navy aircraft) and the daring flights by aviators like Eugene Ely and Naval Aviator No. 1, Theodore Ellyson. Eugene Ely made the first successful shipboard landing of an aircraft on January 18, 1911. This was also the first shipboard landing using a tailhook system. Mr. Ely successfully landed a Curtiss Pusher aircraft on the deck of the USS Pennsylvania, an armored Cruiser, anchored in San Francisco Bay. The courage and daring of these Aviation pioneers fueled the innovation and development of Naval Aviation and it has inspired 100 years of innovation and accomplishment.

As the Navy prepares for the next 100 years of Naval Aviation they will continue

to depend on their people: pilots, aircrew maintainers, and support personnel as well as the partnerships with industry and local communities. If you would like additional information regarding the Centennial, you can visit the Navy's official website at [www.navy.mil/FLYNAVY/](http://www.navy.mil/FLYNAVY/).

On December 13th, the Centennial of Naval Aviating comes to Kitsap Peninsula. Our guest speaker is Captain Christopher "Rasta" Shay, Commander, Electronic Attack Wing, U.S. Fleet. Captain Shay's Wing includes over 100 aircraft, 3700 personnel, 13 active VAQ squadrons, one Fleet Replacement Squadron, the Electronic Attack Weapons School and the Northwest Regional Naval Intelligence Center.

Please contact Diane Garrett at CTC, 360 782-5500, on or before December 8 to make your luncheon reservation.

The luncheon will be at the Trident Ballroom on base at NBK Bangor and includes active duty, Navy League members and their guests only.

Doors open at 11:00 a.m.

Cost of lunch: \$15. Payable at the luncheon, cash or check only.



## President's Message

Hopeing all of you have a happy holiday season and that you reach out to those who might be far away from family or

new to the area.

For Navy League Councils around the globe, December is a transition time. This is a great time to reflect on all that we have done and how we can improve. Thanks to the wonderful members of our Board who have provided great advice and spent many hours making everything go smoothly. Bless them for all being willing to do it again for another year. Thanks also for some members who are willing to step forward and join the Board and make it even stronger.

Take time to thank Sandra and Earle Smith and their committee for coordinating the Veterans Day program. More than 40 different organizations and individuals are involved in this great event that honors our veterans. The Smiths have chaired this event for the past eight years and each year gets better and better. I know that Sandra and Earle are already thinking about a speaker for next year.

Heroes' Welcome honoring Individual Augmentees and their families was also a wonderful opportunity to say thanks for all that these fine men and women and their families give to our country. Fleet & Family Service has been coordinating this event for the last five years and our council is honored to help support this event.

Thanks to Larry Salter for organizing our December 13 Celebration of the Centennial of Naval Aviation. Larry has been working diligently on this event since last February.

Each month we have great programs and speakers show up who are well prepared with programs of great interest. While this might seem easy, believe me each month is a challenge. Our program chair for the past 15 years, Will Lent, already has more than 24 potential programs for next year and we know that some additional speakers will be substituted and some of our current choices will suddenly not be available. There are so many great stories to be told and so much to learn, that we are fortunate to be surrounded by willing, knowledgeable people who take time from their busy schedules to prepare programs and share their stories with us.

Thanks also to the many businesses that have stepped forward to support our efforts to help the military and their families. We are looking forward to fun at the local Army-Navy Game on December 3 and the Operation Holiday Spirit where we provide holiday cheer to brighten the holidays of approximately 100 young children and their families.

Participation in these types of programs would not be possible without the generous support of the business community and our members.

A special thanks to each of you who honor our military and our country. Thanks for honoring our flag and all that it stands for. Thanks for your participation in keeping our country strong.

## New Membership Directory Coming Soon

We are working hard to get your new 2012 Roster of names and addresses of member's names to you in the very near future.

If you have changed your address, telephone numbers or name please contact our Membership Chair, Larry Salter and let him know so that he can

make the proper corrections

Larry Salter's email address:  
[salter@ctc.com](mailto:salter@ctc.com)

If you do not want to be included in the directory, please let Mr. Salter know this also.

## 2012 Installation of Officers and Board Members

Our Installation will be at our regular monthly luncheon on January 10.

Captain Steve Vincent, CO of Naval Operations Support Center (NOSC) in our area, has agreed be the keynote speaker and we are certainly looking forward to his presentation.

More about Captain Vincent and the great work that he is doing for our reservists will be in the next newsletter.

The Council has elected the following for the new year:

<b>President</b>	<b>Carolyn Dankers</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Tim Katona</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Heidi Hottinger</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Ruth Bond</b>

The names of the following people will be presented to the membership at the December 13 luncheon for consideration as Board Members for the 2012 year:

**Robert Cairns**  
**Tom Danaher**  
**Drake Evans**  
**Byron Faber**  
**Steve Fabry**  
**Doug Garner**  
**Dodie Garner**  
**Patricia Germaine**  
**Robert Hoag**  
**Greg Jose**  
**Bob Lamb**  
**Will Lent**  
**Helen Miller**  
**Larry Salter**  
**Tina Salter**  
**Erin Sorensen**  
**James Walkowski**

## Veterans Honored at Special Event on Nov. 11

Each year, our council coordinates the largest Veterans Day program in the state of Washington with approximately forty other organizations. The focus of the event is to celebrate the efforts and sacrifices of our veterans from all the military services.

The photos help tell the story of the day as over 1400 people participated in the event.



*Kitsap Battalion Sea Cadets join with the Knights of Columbus and the Washington Youth Academy in Parading the Colors at our Veterans Day program.*



*RDML Biesel, Commander, Navy Region Northwest pays tribute to the Veterans.*



*Uncle Sam admires LeMoyné Jevne's flag display at the Veterans Day Program.*



*Hundreds turn out to honor our veterans at the Kitsap Sun Pavilion Fairgrounds on Veterans Day.*

## “Reflections on Pearl Harbor” by Admiral Chester Nimitz

Sunday, December 7th, 1941--Admiral Chester Nimitz was attending a concert in Washington D.C. He was paged and told there was a phone call for him. When he answered the phone, it was President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. He told Admiral Nimitz that he (Nimitz) would now be the Commander of the Pacific Fleet.

Admiral Nimitz flew to Hawaii to assume command of the Pacific Fleet. He landed at Pearl Harbor on Christmas Eve, 1941. There was such a spirit of despair, dejection and defeat—you would have thought the Japanese had already won the war.

On Christmas Day, 1941, Adm. Nimitz was given a boat tour of the destruction wrought on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese. Big sunken battleships and navy vessels cluttered the waters every where you looked. As the tour boat returned to dock, the young helmsman of the boat asked,

“Well Admiral, what do you think after seeing all this destruction?” Admiral Nimitz’s reply shocked everyone within the sound of his voice. Admiral Nimitz said, “The Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could ever make, or God was taking care of America. Which do you think it was?”

Shocked and surprised, the young helmsman asked, “What do mean by saying the Japanese made the three biggest mistakes an attack force ever made?”

Nimitz explained:

Mistake number one: the Japanese attacked on Sunday morning. Nine out of every ten crewmen of those ships were ashore on leave. If those same ships had been lured to sea and been sunk--we would have lost 38,000 men instead of 3,800.

Mistake number two: when the Japanese saw all those battleships lined in a

row, they got so carried away sinking those battleships, they never once bombed our dry docks opposite those ships. If they had destroyed our dry docks, we would have had to tow everyone of those ships to America to be repaired. As it is now, the ships are in shallow water and can be raised. One tug can pull them over to the dry docks, and we can have them repaired and at sea by the time we could have towed them to America. And I already have crews ashore anxious to man those ships.

Mistake number three: Every drop of fuel in the Pacific theater of war is on top of the ground in storage tanks five miles away over that hill. One attack plane could have strafed those tanks and destroyed our fuel supply.

That’s why I say the Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could make, or God was taking care of America.

# Farewell to the USS Abraham Lincoln



Area Navy League Councils join together to bid farewell to the great crew of the mighty carrier, the USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72). Hundreds of crewmembers gathered on base at Everett for a final farewell to the area citizens. The crew enjoyed some good food and a chance to relax thanks to the MWR (Moral, Welfare and Recreation), group at Everett. Funding for this event was supported by contributions from the area councils

The Nimitz Class Carrier has been homeported in Everett for 15 of its 22 years. While it has been deployed many times, the families of the crew have called Everett

home. With an annual payroll of more than \$230 million, Naval Station Everett is Snohomish county's second-largest employer, behind Boeing. Thousands of civilians and active-duty military personnel work full time at the base. The USS Lincoln, its crew and their families bring an estimated \$100 million into the local economy.

The USS Nimitz (CVN 68) will leave PSNS and become homeported soon in Everett.

Byron Faber and Pat Germaine were our council's official representatives to this great gathering. Check out the great photos that Byron has shared with us.



# Share Past Issues of Seapower

Please bring past issues of the Sea Power magazine to our lunches so that they can be shared with others. These magazines that are part of your membership benefits, have so much great information that can be shared with others.

Thanks to Norm Marten, Doug Garner and Don Green for bringing some of their magazines to share. We have many requests for these magazines from our friends who are active duty or in rest homes, so if you don't want to collect them, pass them on.

# Go Navy!

Come cheer your favorite football team at the Army-Navy Game on Friday, December 3rd at 1pm at Silverdale Stadium. This is always a fun event, so bundle up and come have fun.

We are one of the proud sponsors of this event this year so let's have fun and show our support.



## Marine Birthday Celebration and Oldest Marine in the Room



*Mrs. Snyder presenting a piece of the Marine birthday cake to the youngest Marine in the room.*

Gayle Blecksmith Snyder joined the Marines in 1943. She had just graduated from the University of Redlands in California, World War II was underway and she wanted to do her part.

Her first stop as a Marine was basic training at Camp Lejeune. “The Marines didn’t quite know what to do with me,” she remembers, “so they sent me to officer’s training.” Upon completion, 2nd Lt. Blecksmith was stationed at the Marine Corps Air Center in Cherry Point, NC. There she was in charge of personnel for the Post Exchange, with responsibility for about 300 people. She served there through the end of the war.

It was during her tour, on February 25, 1944, that she married her long term sweetheart and fellow marine, Capt. Dale Snyder, a flight instructor. The newlyweds were lucky enough to be stationed just miles apart and were able to spend many weekends together. “When the war ended, they were anxious to send us all back home;” she and Dale returned to California, where they settled to start their family.

“It was such privilege to serve.” Being a Marine and serving during a time when few women took the opportunity, Gayle recalls, “The timing was very good for me.”

## GM3 Thomas J. Gaskell USCG Enlisted Person of 3rd Quarter



Air Station Sector Field Office Port Angeles proudly recommends GM3 Gaskell for selection as the 2011 Coast Guard Enlisted Person of the Quarter.

GM3 Gaskell’s record indicates that his tireless initiative and inspirational character are astonishing. He has demonstrated leadership capabilities that goes far beyond that normally expected of an E-4. His eagerness to serve others, enthusiasm to learn, and devotion to the Coast Guard, its people and the community are most highly commendable.

As a member of the unit armory and small arms coach, he has assisted in training over 60 members to remain fully qualified to carry out their missions. He has worked tirelessly to liaison with the Port Angeles Police Department and his firm stance on following procedures has allowed the armory to continue to improve the working relationship between local law enforcement resources and the Coast Guard.

GM3 Gaskell serves as the Color



Guard Captain for the Air station. As such, he has organized the team and coordinated for six events including funeral details and commemorative recognitions, sometimes with only 24 hours advance notice.

Petty Officer Gaskell presents a professional demeanor and appearance and has positive personality traits that help to accomplish tasks and promote cooperation across all levels of the command. He is an excellent ambassador for the U.S. Coast Guard, humbly taking the core values from the paper and putting them into action daily.

Our Council is proud to have the opportunity to recognize GM3 Gaskell for his outstanding work. We also want to recognize the other fine men and women who serve at this Air Station for the excellent work they accomplish on a daily basis.

# Mr. James Van Antwerp 2011 Manager of the Year

Mr. Van Antwerp, Technical Director of the Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) Division, Keyport, Washington was nominated by his peers and recognized nationally by the Federal Managers Association as the 2011 Manager of the Year.

In his role as Technical Director, Mr. Van Antwerp oversees the test and evaluation, in-service engineering, maintenance and repair, fleet support and industrial base support for undersea warfare systems, undersea weapon systems, countermeasures, and sonar systems. As a result, he directs NUWC Division, Keyport, operations at Keyport and Bangor in Washington, Pearl Harbor, San Diego, and Hawthorne, Nevada. Van Antwerp administers an annual operating budget of \$350 million and manages a staff of over 1,500 employees.

He was commended for his ability "to change the way the Navy recruits, retains and promotes women, and worked with others to make a difference in his organization", according to FMA President, Patricia Niehaus. Mr. Van Antwerp's passion has revolutionized his workplaces for over thirty years as a federal civil servant.

He has received numerous honors and distinguished awards throughout his career for "sharing his courage and wisdom" with the women in the Pacific Northwest civilian workforce. In 2004, he was awarded the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award for work within NAVSEA at the corporate level and for his success focusing on sustainable process improvements and Navy total ownership cost reductions.

We are very proud of what Mr. Van Antwerp has accomplished and count him as a great friend to Navy League. Congratulations!

## Navy League Tour Report



*Point-No-Point lighthouse in Hansville*

Another amazing Navy League tour was enjoyed by 19 of us on October 26, 2011 thanks to the usual great work of Byron Faber. And the best part was that it was a double header. Not only did we tour the Point-No-Point lighthouse in Hansville, but we also visited My Girl Drive-In in Kingston.

Point-No-Point light house was built in 1879, and an addition was constructed in 1900 to house the fog signal machinery. It was the first Puget Sound light house and is essentially unchanged from that time. A somewhat unusual aspect of the lighthouse is that its original fourth order Fresnel lens is still in place and we were able to climb into the lantern room to view it close up. It is no longer operational, however, having been replaced by an automated modern light mounted on the outside. The view from the lantern room is pretty neat too. The United States Light House Society oversees Point-No-Point for Kitsap County and has its national offices in one half of the nearby keeper's quarters on the grounds. The other half is available for daily or longer rental...not a bad place to stay. Also on the grounds is the former workshop building which is now a gift shop and small museum where four former light house lenses of various sizes are on display. Many thanks to the USLHS for opening the lighthouse for us

and giving us this special tour.

After lunch we headed down to Kingston where we took a step back in time at the My Girl Drive-In, where good friend of the Navy League Bob Thompson has spent many years (and more than a few dollars!) creating a most amazing place. Imagine going back to the 1950s to a drive in diner of that time, filled with period memorabilia. There is a lot of Elvis Presley material, even including a trailer used by Elvis while movie making. It was fun to be able to stand where he once stood. And there are many vintage cars that are in immaculate condition. Also, there is an Armed Forces Museum in its separate building. And there is the Armed Forces Funny Car which Bob takes to various events to promote our armed forces. The car has an 8000HP engine and can accelerate to 330 MPH in less than 5 seconds. Wow. Unfortunately it had been shut down for the season, so we only got to look at it. Bob rents the place for parties, weddings, or whatever and this is the only way to normally visit there. Thanks so much to Bob for sharing his special place with us.

With Elvis still playing in the background the day ended and we somewhat reluctantly left for home, but everyone was wearing a big smile.

*Norman Marten*

# Planning Ahead

For best service, register early for the luncheon and the tours.

Dec. 3	Army-Navy Game-Silverdale Stadium, 1 pm
Dec. 7	Pearl Harbor Remembrance, Keyport Museum, 11 am Public Welcome
Dec. 8	Deadline for lunch reservations, Call CTC at 360 782-5500
Dec. 13	Luncheon, Centennial of Naval Aviation, Trident Ball Room, Bangor 11 a.m. - Networking Program 11:45 a.m.
Dec. 14	Board Meeting, Tony's Pizza, Bremerton 5:30 pm
Dec. 15	Operation Holiday Spirit, Bangor
Dec. 21	Hanukkah
Dec. 25	Christmas
Jan. 5	Deadline for lunch reservations, Call CTC at 360 782-5500
Jan. 10	Luncheon, Installation of Officers and Board members for 2012 Keynote Speaker, Captain Steve Vincent, CO of NOSC, Kitsap



Racing Car from the My Girl Museum in Kingston (photo by Byron Faber)

## 2011 COUNCIL OFFICERS

President	Carolyn Dankers 360.769.7415 <a href="mailto:c.dankers@wavecable.com">c.dankers@wavecable.com</a>
Vice President	Tim Katona 360.674.2628 <a href="mailto:mayflower616@donobi.net">mayflower616@donobi.net</a>
Secretary	Heidi Hottinger
Treasurer	Ruth Bond
Judge Advocate	George Rose
Immediate Past President	Gary Gunderson

## COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS

- ★ Tom Danaher
- ★ Drake Evans
- ★ Byron Faber
- ★ Patricia Germane
- ★ Robert Hoag
- ★ Greg Jose
- ★ Will Lent
- ★ Larry Salter
- ★ Tina Salter
- ★ Erin Sorensen
- ★ James Walkowski

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