

2006 COUNCIL OFFICERS

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Vice President	Lou Dufresne 360.394.7540
Treasurer	Stan Mack 360.598.8834
Secretary	Paul Lucas 360.473.2328
Judge Advocate	Guy Stitt 360.373.2686

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- ★ Todd Pacific Shipyard

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- ★ The Sun
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- ★ West Sound Bank

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome Aboard

- ★ Richard Dorn
- ★ Bethany Gray
- ★ Janelle Shellenhamer
- ★ Brad Weiner



President's Corner

As the end of my tenure comes to a close with the installation of the new officers on 21 Jan 2006, I wanted to take some time to reflect on our accomplishments. I am pleased to say that our Council has come to be known as a leading organization in our community.

We raised over \$8,000 for the USS Stennis' Homecoming in Jan 05 which offset the costs for the VIP party thrown by the wardroom. It was well received and greatly appreciated by Capt Dave Buss and his crew.

We raised over \$20,000 for The Armed Forces Day Gala. At the event we provided a five course meal; guest speaker, war hero LTCOL Bruce Crandall (USA Ret), and awesome entertainment to 100 active duty service members and their spouses. The event was sold out.

We sent a respectable contingency to The Regional Conference in Spokane, toured the test site at Lake Pend Orielle, Idaho, and elected our own Carol Meteney as a National Director and Ron Testa as The NW Regional President.

We acknowledged and recognized the NJROTC recipients of the Teddy Roosevelt Youth Award.

One of our members, who wishes to remain anonymous, provided a substantial scholarship to the Port Townsend NJROTC from an inheritance he had received.

With the generous contribution from Paul Lucas, we sponsored the award-winning Bremerton HS Orienteering Team.

We sponsored and hosted, with the planning and logistical support of Board Member, Stan Mack, The Memorial Day Service onboard *The Turner Joy* with over 150 in attendance. The overflow from the crowd extended out onto the gangway and pier.

We proudly entered our award-winning Navy League float in a number of the

parades throughout the county.

We hosted Commodore Ian Rankin, a retired British Admiral to be our guest speaker at our Navy Day Dinner in recognition of the US Navy's 230 birthday and the 200 year anniversary of The Battle of Trafalgar. Special thanks to Will Lent for his tremendous efforts planning this event and obtaining a list of guest speakers for our luncheons that were second to none.

We sponsored Military Family Appreciation Night with MWR.

With the help of Earle and Sandra Smith we have cemented ourselves in the community as the "go-to" organization for having pulled off the County's largest Veteran's Day ceremony in history. Over 750 people attended and 24 veterans and fraternal organizations participated.

We are in the planning stages for the Return to Service ceremony planned for the USS Ohio in February which is the Navy equivalent to a commissioning ceremony.

These are the highlights of the year but our participation within the community runs even deeper. We suffered the loss of our beloved Al Meteney and we our currently praying for the speedy recovery of Marilyn Caldwell, our treasurer, who is a treasure to this council. This is an outline for the topics that I will present at our installation dinner for the new officers scheduled for 21 January 2006; I hope that you can make it. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Roger

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Installation Dinner

The 2006 Annual
"Installation of Officer's Dinner"

Date: January 21, 2006
Place: Mary Mac's Restaurant
Time: Cocktails, 6:00 p.m.
Dinner, 7:00 p.m.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Lest We Forget...a Pearl Harbor Remembrance

The 12th annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony was held at the Naval Undersea Museum, Keyport, Washington on December 7, 2005. Master of Ceremony Mike Mathews, Captain, USN (RET) and over 400 people paid tribute to the 19 Pearl Harbor Survivors (all members of the Donald K. Ross Chapter of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association) and their families who were in attendance. The ceremony included a welcome to the survivors from Commander Tom Carpenter, Chief Staff Officer of NUWC Division, Keyport; Parade of the Colors by the Veteran Affairs Lake Washington Post 2995 Honor Guard; and The National

Anthem, "God Bless America", "America the Beautiful" and the Navy Hymn performed by the Navy Band Northwest.

A solemn recounting of the ships and shore installations damaged and lives lost during the Japanese attack on that fateful "Day of Infamy" was narrated by Captain Mathews and brought into focus the enormity of the attack and its influence on our country's history.

Vivid images of the attack, projected on a large screen, elicited a variety of emotional reactions from those present. Each of the 19 survivors was given an opportunity to recount their experiences during the attack and this proved to be the highlight of the ceremony with several of them lightening the mood by poking fun at their own roles on that historic day. After recalling, "it was

a heck of thing to say your ship was sunk in a drydock" (his ship was severely damaged during the attack while in drydock) Tumwater, Washington resident Douglas Smith went on to say that "being 19 years old, it was something I'll never, never forget."

He also thanked the Navy officials for continuing to hold the ceremony at Keyport, drawing attention to the dwindling number of survivors. "There are only 56 people who still belong to our chapter and 5,000 known survivors left in the country. As you can see, there's not many of us left" he said. "I hope the command continues this until only one person is left." Captain Mathews assured the audience and the survivors that "as long as you keep coming back, we'll keep holding the ceremony."

Contributed by Lou Dufresne



Over 400 people paid tribute to 19 of the less than 5,000 remaining Pearl Harbor attack survivors at the "Lest We Forget Remembrance Ceremony" Dec. 7th at the Naval Undersea Museum. Many of the 19 gave vivid accounts of that fateful day.

Ceremony photos by J. Klose

Stennis Begins Sea Trials Following DPIA

By Journalist 2nd Class Ryan Hill,
USS John C. Stennis Public Affairs

Bremerton, WA (NNS) Dec. 13, 2005 -- The Nimitz-class nuclear powered aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) departed her homeport in Bremerton, Wash., for a weeklong phase of sea trials Dec. 12 after spending more than 11 months receiving extensive equipment and technology upgrades during a scheduled Docked Phased Incremental Availability (DPIA) at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard (PSNS) here.

During the shipyard and dry-dock availability, Stennis received a complete hull restoration above and below the waterline, as well as a complete refurbishment of the shafts, rudders and screws. Many on-board flight, operational and weapons systems were upgraded, including the Capstone self-defense system, new damage control and digital helm technology.

"It was important to test the new equipment we have on board and some of the old equipment we haven't used in over a year," said Capt. David Buss, Stennis' commanding officer. "These sea trials gave the crew an opportunity to train and assess where we are."

"Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility (IMF) personnel conducted over 600,000 man-days of production work on this overhaul,"

said Dave McPherson, PSNS & IMF project superintendent for Stennis. "It is one of the largest aircraft carrier Docking Phased Incremental Availabilities ever accomplished."

According to McPherson, maintenance and modernization work covered almost every area of the ship, including the aircraft launch and recovery systems, habitability and preservation of the entire exterior of the ship's hull.

"One of the most significant of the entire exterior of the ship was in the combat systems arena. A group of systems called Capstone were installed that provides the ship with a significantly enhanced self-defense system," McPherson said. "In order to support the new Capstone radar and antennae packages, the ship's mast was replaced with a larger, stronger one, built and installed by personnel at PSNS and IMF," he explained.

Extensive testing and evaluation of the maintenance and modernization work was completed during the weeklong sea trial, including full power runs ahead and astern, and maximum-rudder turns.

"It was an incredible effort by the men and women working on Stennis to get the ship out of dry dock early," said Capt. Dan Peters, commander of PSNS and IMF. "The high level of expertise, dedication and professionalism that our work force, ship's force and the project team demonstrated resulted in getting this magnificent ship back to sea."

The upgrade in technology is just one facet of the changes on Stennis. Rear Adm. Kevin Quinn took command of Carrier

Strike Group 3 and the John C. Stennis Carrier Strike Group Nov. 16, making Stennis his flagship.

As the overall commander, Quinn commands the entire strike group, composed of the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, up to five surface ships, one submarine and up to eight aviation squadrons, all equipped and trained to forward deploy on short notice, providing a deterrent against aggression as well as protection of vital U.S. interests anywhere in the world.

"This is the dream job for every line officer in the United States Navy," said Quinn. "This is a spectacular ship. The Sailors are excited and the spaces look amazing. I can't help but be impressed," he said.

Stennis is scheduled to continue sea trials this winter. The ship will resume air operations and be joined by the other ships of the strike group to continue training in preparation for upcoming deployments. Officials hope to have Stennis ready for emergency surge operations by next summer.

"I am very proud of our Stennis shipmates because they've done such a good job at maintaining this ship. I would argue that with the new modernization package we received on board, we are the most capable carrier in the fleet," Buss said.

Stennis began its shipyard availability in January 2005 after a successful five-month deployment to the northern and western Pacific Ocean in 2004 and a change of homeport from San Diego.



Tugboats steam alongside the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74), as the nuclear-powered ship departs its homeport. Stennis is undergoing sea trials after an 11-month overhaul at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Mark J. Rebilas

NOW HEAR THIS! is the official news-letter 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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Planning Calendar

- Tuesday January 10 Monthly Luncheon - Bangor Plaza
- Saturday January 21 2006 Installation of Officers Dinner
Mary Macs, Port Orchard
- Tuesday February 14 Monthly Luncheon - Bangor Plaza
- Friday - Sunday February 24-26 Navy League of the United States
Annual Northwest Region Conference
Bellevue Red Lion

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

On this Date:

January 17, 1955 - USS Nautilus (SSN-571), the first nuclear-powered submarine, casts off lines at 1100 and sends message "underway on nuclear power"
 January 23, 1968 - USS Pueblo seized by North Korean forces in Sea of Japan

January Luncheon

Date: January 10, 2006
Time: 11:30 AM
Place: Bangor Plaza, Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor
Program: Captain Reid Tanaka
 Commander
 Naval Base Kitsap

Call Pioneer Services at 360.405.6336 by Thursday January 5th to make your reservation. You are asked to call even if you have a standing reservation.

RESERVATIONS ARE NECESSARY

All participants must be signed up and on the reservation list. Guests and members without a base pass must also be on the list and enter through the main gate.

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



*Would be honored by your presence as we welcome the new Officers and Board of
Directors at the "2006 Installation Dinner"*

Where: **Mary Mac's Restaurant**
5155 McCormick Woods Dr.
Port Orchard, WA 98367

When: Saturday, January 21, 2006

Guest Speaker:

RADM Bob Passmore

Deputy Commander, Navy Region NW

Time: 6:00 PM – Cocktails (No Host Bar)
7:00 PM – Dinner

Cost: \$30.00 per person

Menu: Breast of Chicken (w/pistachio sherry cream sauce) or
Salmon (w/citrus butter sauce)

Attire: Service Dress Uniform
Civilians: Business Attire

RSVP: Tina Salter

Please RSVP with your payment no Later Than January 13, 2006

Name(s) _____

Dinner Selection: Chicken.....Number_____ Salmon.....Number_____

Make Checks payable to Navy League of the United States and mail to Tina Salter at
7837 Amethyst Loop NW, Silverdale, WA 98383. You can also RSVP via telephone
(360-698-3165) or email (LTSalter@msn.com)