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NEW MEMBERS

Welcome Aboard

- ★ Lance Kolbert (*New Life Member*)
- ★ Tom Blanchard
- ★ Jeffrey Dolven
- ★ Heinz Hikethier, QMCS(Ret)



President's Corner

February was a great start for our new Navy League year. The highlight of the month was your Council's participation in the USS Ohio (SSGN 726) Return to Service Ceremony. I wrote an article highlighting our activities to go along with the photo's that Vern Young took during the reception, so I will not repeat myself here.

The Navy League and Submarine League committee members did an outstanding

job and the events we hosted were a huge success-the committee did their respective organizations proud.

I survived my first luncheon as the President on February 14th. Captain Jon Kurtz, Commanding Officer of Naval Magazine Indian Island, was our guest speaker.

Many of the board members are preparing to attend the Northwest Region Conference which will be held February 24-26 in Bellevue. I am looking forward to meeting our National President, John Panneton, at the Conference. I will hit the highlights of the Conference in next months newsletter.

(continued on page 2)

Council Installation Dinner Brings Regional Navy Leadership and Navy League Leadership Together



The January 21 Installation Dinner provided an opportunity to bring many of our local Navy and Navy League leaders together to thank the 2005 Officers and Board and install the 2006 Officers and Board. Pictured are some of those leaders (front row left to right: Diane Jaffa, National Director; Beth Munns, National Director; Rear Admiral Robert Passmore, Deputy Command Navy Region NW and Guest Speaker; Carol Meteney, National Director; Tom Jaffa, National Vice President and Installing Officer. Back Row: Larry Salter, incoming President; Rear Admiral William French, Commander Navy Region NW; and Roger Nance, outgoing President. Not pictured, but also in attendance was Barbara Bailey, NW Coastal Area President.

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.

Editors Kirk Piering and James Klose

Editor (Web Issue) Dave Shafer

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We welcome your comments and story ideas. Items for publication, changes of address, and inquires should be sent to:

Editor
Now Hear This
PO Box 626
Bremerton, WA 98337-0131

or email: lkpiering@raytheon.com

(President's Corner - continued from page 1)

Our next big event is rapidly approaching-the Armed Forces Day Gala. Much has been happening in preparation already and there is much more to do, but I wanted to get the word out so that you can mark your calendars. The Gala is scheduled for Saturday, May 20th, at the Admiral Theater.

There is a PSNBA reception for our Guest of Honor on Friday the 19th-we have invited Rear Admiral Jeffery Cassias, Commander, Submarine Forces, Pacific. This years theme, provided by the Bremerton Chamber of Commerce, is "Wave the Flag, Proud and Tall." If you are unable to attend, please consider sponsoring a military guest and their spouse.

Larry



Larry Salter presents the traditional Navy League Speakers Mug to Capt Jon Kurtz, Commanding Officer, Naval Magazine Indian Island on February 14th. Capt Kurtz was our Luncheon Speaker and he presented an informative briefing of Indian Island operations and changes that have taken place at Indian Island.

USS Ohio (SSGN 726) Return to Service Activities

The Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council and Naval Submarine League, Pacific Northwest Chapter, generously supported USS Ohio (SSGN 726) Return to Service activities on February 6th and 7th. With contributions from sponsors, our two organizations were able to host an evening reception for 225 attendees, a breakfast for 50, luncheon for 125, and a post ceremony reception for 500 crew members and guests. In addition, we were able to provide a plaque for each crew member, VIP, and sponsor commemorating the February 7, 2006 Return to Service Ceremony.

The U.S. Navy put together a spectacular event to commemorate the return of this transformational weapon system to the service of our great nation. The ceremony and events were conducted flawlessly. The rainy weather we had been having for two months even relented and provided a beautiful winter day as a back drop for the ceremony.

There were many dignitaries present for the events and ceremony-Congressman Norm Dicks was a guest speaker at the Monday night reception and the Tuesday Ceremony. Admiral Edmund P. Giambastiani, Jr., Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff was the senior ranking officer presiding over the ceremony. Others in attendance included Senior DoD and Navy Civilians; Vice Admiral Charles Munns, Commander, Submarine Forces; and various flag officers from the Navy, Marine Corps and Army. A special guest was Mrs. Annie Glenn, wife of Senator John Glenn, the sponsor who christened the USS Ohio (SSBN 726) when it was first launched on April 7, 1979. She provided the crew with a USS Ohio patch that had been taken into space by Senator Glenn.

It was an honor for our Navy League Council to be involved in such a professionally organized series of events and to contribute to the return to service of this great ship.



Hosted Events

Evening Reception
Breakfast
Luncheon
Post Ceremony Reception
Crew Memento



Thank You to the Committee Members Navy League Committee Members:

Captain Larry Salter, USN Retired, Council President
Roger Nance Jr, Immediate Past President
Guy Stitt, Judge Advocate
Carol Meteney, National Director and Past President
Captain Will Lent, USN Retired, Past President
Janelle Shellenhamer
Linda Corpe

Naval Submarine League Committee Members:

Captain James Adkins, USN Retired, Chapter President
Captain Mal Wright, USN Retired



The Navy League of the United States and Naval Submarine League would like to welcome you to the USS Ohio SSGN 726 Return to Service celebration. Our Navy League Council is honored to be able to host a number of social events associated with the Return to Service Ceremony. We could not have supported this event without the generous support of the following companies and organizations.

Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council Community Affiliates who provided additional support for this event:

- AMI International
- Concurrent Technologies Corporation
- Countrywide Home Loans
- First Command Financial Planning
- Raytheon Integrated Defense Systems

Additional Sponsors:

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- Lockheed Martin Corporation
- NASCAR/International Speedway Corporation
- Naval Submarine League
- Navy League, Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council
- Northrop Grumman - Sunnyvale
- Paladin Data Systems
- Puget Sound Naval Bases Association
- Raytheon Missile Systems
- Recognition Plus
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- Todd Pacific Shipyards

Photos from top: ★Rear Admiral Jeffrey B. Cassias presents the "long glass" to the oncoming Officer of the Deck, during the setting of the first watch. ★Mrs. Annie Glenn, wife of Senator John Glenn, and Navy League Regional President, Ron Testa, enjoying the Monday night reception. ★Jim Adkins, President of the Pacific NW Chapter of the Naval Submarine League explains the plaque that was provided to the ships crew and VIPs. ★The dais members look on during the "Come Alive" activities to bring the ship to life. ★Commanding Officer USS Ohio (SSGN 726) Cmdr. Michael Cockey, left, reports to Vice Chairman of the Joints Chiefs of Staff, Adm. Edmund Giambastiani Jr., that the guided missile submarine Ohio is ready to return to service. ★Sailors assigned to the USS Ohio man the rails for the boat's return to active service.



Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council
 Navy League of the United States
 Post Office Box 626
 Bremerton, WA 98337-0131

Postage for your newsletter has been provided by



Planning Calendar

- Thursday March 9 PSNBA Reception for Admiral Kirkland Donald, Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program, 5 PM at the Keyport Undersea Museum
- Tuesday March 14 Monthly Luncheon - Bangor Plaza
- Tuesday April 11 Monthly Luncheon - Bangor Plaza
- Saturday April 29 Cape Disappointment Coast Guard Station Tour contact Carol Meteney for details (360-876-5744)

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

April

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

On this Date:

March 19, 2003 - Operation Iraqi Freedom begins with Tomahawk strikes from Navy ships and submarines.

March 31, 1992 - USS Missouri (BB-63), veteran of three wars and the last active American battleship is decommissioned.

March Luncheon

Date: March 14, 2006
Time: 11:30 AM
Place: Bangor Plaza, Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor
Program: CDR Mike Cockey
 Commanding Officer
 USS Ohio

Call Pioneer Services at 360.405.6336 by Wednesday March 8th 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.