



Now Hear This!



Navy League of the United States

Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council

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Hospital Commanding Officer Highlights Hospital Achievements



(Above) Captain Mark Brouker talks with many of our Navy League members during a tour of Navy Hospital Bremerton.

Exciting news about the Naval Hospital Bremerton and the auxiliary centers to almost 100 members and guests at the February monthly luncheon.

Captain Brouker is obviously very pleased with the men and women who provide such high quality service to active duty military, their families

and to retirees who depend upon the hospital to meet their needs. Captain Brouker also explained how the staff works with area health and emergency agencies to provide service to all area residents in times of crisis.

Of all the military hospitals in the country, there are only eight, which are teaching hospitals, and Naval Hospital Bremerton is one of the eight.

Continued on page 2

Upcoming Events - Save the Date

- ★ Navy League Regional Conference is April 16 & 17
- ★ Armed Forces Week is May 8 -15
- ★ Armed Forces Gala is May 15



President's Message

Nimitz Class aircraft carriers, Ohio and Sea Wolf Class submarines and guided missile Destroyers deploy

and later return to their homeports in Puget Sound virtually unnoticed by most of us and their presence is generally taken as a normal part of our everyday lives.

Naval Base Kitsap, Bremerton/Bangor is the Third Largest Naval Base in the Country and a significant element in our state's economy but just how well do we know the men and women on these bases that ring Puget Sound from Naval Air Station Whidbey Island to Naval Base Kitsap.

It is incumbent on us as members of the Navy League to support these important Naval Bases and their people. We are continuing our notable newsletter articles and inviting special guest speakers to inform us about their Commands and the role they play in our country's National Defense and Homeland Security missions.

"The Navy now has more than 26,000 Sailors at sea and ashore in the Southwest Asia region, 13,000 of them on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan. Ninety percent of the equipment and supplies for these wars come in by sealift. Electronic attack comes principally from U.S. Navy airborne assets. The Navy flies one-third of all the tactical air missions in theater and conducts support missions, from explosive-ordnance disposal to detainee operations." (Source Proceedings Magazine Feb 2010)

Please join us and learn about the "real life" stories of our men and women standing a watch both here and around the world and help us share their stories with our family, friends and neighbors.

*Gary S Gunderson, President
Bremerton-Olympic Council*

Hospital Achievements (continued)

Students and interns from medical programs in the area can choose to do part of their education at NHB.

At any given time, many of the regular staff is deployed to strategic areas around the world to provide service.

Captain Brouker ended his program with three stories from medical corpsmen attached to forward deployed Marine units. As he shared the stories, it was easy to see why he was so proud of these fine young men and women.

In addition to our guest speaker, we were honored to be able to recognize three Sailors of the Quarter and learn about their many wonderful ac-

complishments. More of their stories are included in this newsletter.

Sally Kane won the free luncheon for next time and she will bring a non-member to the luncheon. We welcomed The Legacy Group as our new Community Affiliates and thought that Mike Hancock was certainly setting a great example as chair of the membership committee to bring in the first new community affiliate of the year.

Plan on attending the next luncheon and learn more about life aboard a carrier and the challenge of leading a strike group..

Carrier Strike Group 3 to be Topic of Navy League Luncheon

The monthly luncheon for the Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Navy League will be held on Tuesday, March 9th, in the Bangor Plaza (formerly called the Trident Ballroom, CMO) Naval Base Kitsap - Bangor. Social time starts at 11:00 a.m. The program starts at 11:45 a.m. Rear Admiral "Joey" Aucoin, Commander of the Carrier Strike Group 3, will serve as the Guest Speaker.

The public is 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 noon on Thursday, March 4th. The cost of the luncheon is \$15/person. Please consider joining the local Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Navy League Council and helping to support the troops (<http://brem-olympic.nlus.us>).

Oak Harbor Council Celebration

Our president and vice president attended the Awards Banquet and Change of the Watch at Oak Harbor on Whidbey Island. We were both very impressed with this Navy League Council's activities and enthusiasm. They elect officers for a two-year term and have a committee determine the biennial awards. The Council has the same elected officers as we have and then they have 13 vice presidents.

Oak Harbor Council has established very specific awards and only one person is given an award in each category. This year, six people received an award. One of the awards is for Community Service and is given to individuals, groups or organizations from the community that have made notable contributions to the mission and precepts of the Navy League".

Oak Harbor also has a Hall of Honor to recognize members of the Council whose exemplary service to the Council and to Navy League has

Continued on page 3

Rear Admiral Joseph P. Aucoin, Commander Carrier Strike Group 3

The guest speaker for our March luncheon will be Rear Admiral Joseph P. Aucoin. He graduated from North Carolina State University with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. He received his commission through their NROTC program in 1980. He was designated a naval flight officer in 1981 and reported to Fighter Squadron (VF) 1010 for initial training in the F-14 Tomcat.



Aucoin served on the following aircraft carriers: USS America (CV 66), USS Nimitz (CV 68), USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71), and USS Kennedy (CV 67). He commanded Carrier Air Wing 5 forward deployed in Japan and embarked aboard the USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63).

Ashore, he has served in the Program Planning and Development Branch

(N801), OPNAV Staff; Programming and Budget Division (PBAD), J8, Joint Staff; Aviation Strike Warfare Requirements (N880); head, Program Planning and Development Branch (N801); head, Maritime, Unmanned Aircraft Systems, Aviation Training Plans and Programs (N882) and deputy director, Air Warfare (N88B). Rear Admiral Aucoin has accumulated more

than 4700 hours and more than 1300 carrier arrested landings. His personal awards include the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross with V and Bronze Stars. He is an Arthur S. Moreau Scholar and holds masters degrees in Public Administration from Harvard University and in National Security Studies and Strategic Affairs from the Naval War College.

Oak Harbor Council (continued)

been sustained over an extended period of time.

Each visit to another council provides such great opportunities for learning and for getting to know new people and see old friends. Having fun, providing support and learning at the same time is wonderful.

Congratulations to outgoing president, Dick Devlin and his Board for all of their wonderful accomplishments. Our best wishes

to the incoming president, Tom Tack. He will be a fine president and provide strong leadership for this Council. Thanks also to Beth Munns, past president of the Oak Harbor Council and current president of the Northwest Coastal Area.

I am certainly looking forward to returning to Oak Harbor for the Regional Conference on April 16 and 17.

Submitted by Carolyn Dankers

Trips and Tours

Our illustrious tour guide, Byron Faber, is finding more special places for us to visit and explore. Being a member of Navy League allows us opportunities to go behind the scenes and see sights that the ordinary civilian would never be able to see.

Plan on visiting the Trident Training Facility and going on a sub tour April 20 and probably on May 6. Each sub tour is limited to 35 people. You must be able to go up and down a very steep ladder into the sub. Unfortunately it is not ADA accessible.

Byron is checking on the following:

Tiger Cruises and tours on the USS John C. Stennis and the USS Nimitz

Riding a destroyer or frigate from Indian Island to Everett

Possible Tours

- Safe Boats near the Bremerton Airport,
- Keyport facilities
- Fire Academy in North Bend
- NBK –a history and eco tour
- UW, Navy ROTC and the new Medal of Honor display
- Department of fisheries, Seattle
- Seattle Fireboats and District 13 CG headquarters
- Everett –Surface ship training center and destroyer tour (an all day event)
- Seattle Fireboats and District 13 CG headquarters
- Coast Guard Station Seattle
- Vessel Tracking Service & Homeland Security
- Boat Inspections, K9 training, and tour of the various CG boats

As you can see, he has really been busy finding exciting things for all of us to see and do. We need to help him by letting him know of our interests and showing up when we make a commitment.

For more information or to share ideas with Byron, his email is byfaber@centurytel.com or 360 638-1235.

National Navy League President

Dan Branch, Jr. recently wrote a nice account of his visit to the Pacific Northwest and the Puget Sound area. He was able to see a lot of the area and meet with many different members of the sea services and Navy League members in just one week. He and his wife learned that just because places are close together on a map doesn't mean that you can travel to them in a short amount of time. We hope they will return soon and spend more time.

President Branch is very con-



cerned about the status of the navy's fleet. He writes, "Today, of the 285 ships and submarines in the Navy's fleet, 37% of the ships and 32% of the submarines are on deployment, as are more than 45,000 Navy personnel. All of us joined the navy League for a reason, some wanting to "continue to serve," and many to support their children who are serving on active duty or in our youth Groups. As long as we continue to serve their needs, remain involved in our communities, and educate the public and local and national leaders, we will grow and prosper!"

Navy Band Northwest Concerts

Treat yourself to the wonderful music of the Navy Band Northwest's upcoming concerts. They are free and open to the public. All of the performers are active duty Navy and are exceptionally talented musicians. Performances will be at the Naval Undersea Museum's Auditorium, Keyport.

Dates to save:

- **Sunday, March 21st, 2010 2pm**
"Olympic Brass Choir"
- **Sunday, April 16th, 2010 2pm**
Big Band "Cascade"

While attending the concerts, take time to visit the knowledgeable and friendly staff of the Naval Undersea Museum and enjoy their fine collections and display. This one of a kind museum offers rare glimpses into the science and operation of the U.S. Navy's undersea heritage.

Luncheon Answers and Did You Know ...



(Above) February's luncheon speaker Captain Mark Brouker, Commanding Officer of the Naval Hospital Bremerton

Active duty military in uniform and accompanying spouses may enjoy the monthly Navy League luncheon at the MWR rate of \$12. Of course, if our speaker is active duty, then he or she is our guest. We hope that more active duty personnel will join us for lunch so that we get to meet and share stories. Hearing first hand experiences is far better than reading about them.

Social hour for our lunches begins at 11 o'clock and we begin our program at 11:45.

Our goal is to have a chance to talk, enjoy lunch and have a good program, yet still be through by one o'clock. You might have noticed at our last luncheon, we took all of the photos of our Sailors of the Quarter before the program. Our goal is to be good stewards of your time and make every moment count.

Next lunch, make a point of saying hello to someone you don't know. We have some great members and guests. If you would like to help at a luncheon, please let me know.

*Submitted by Lunch Chair,
Carolyn Dankers*



(Above) MA3 Deja M. Grissom enjoys the luncheon with Navy League life member Bremerton Mayor Patty Lent.

Retired Captain Will Lent, U.S. Navy

Each month, we are highlighting a member of our Board of Directors. This month, we are highlighting retired Navy Captain Will Lent. Most of you know Will Lent as our very capable Program Chairman. He obtains the guest speakers for our luncheons and our various banquets. He always does a great job of introducing these guest speakers to provide us with a little introduction to the speech we are about to hear.

Will is a real "history buff", and has been since he was a child. When he serves as our Navy League's luncheon speaker, by providing some of his WWII history lessons, we have some of our biggest crowds in attendance. He has an incredible way of presenting historical facts and behind the scenes events. In addition to providing these lectures on U.S. history to our Navy League group, Will has been part of various lecture series at Olympic College, the Kitsap Historical Museum and the Naval Undersea Museum.

Will Lent graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1953 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Engineering. He furthered his education by obtaining his Master's degree in Engineering from the U.S. Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, CA. Will served on five submarines during his Naval career, including tours as Executive Officer and Commanding Officer.

After retiring from the Navy as a Captain (O-6), Will started his civilian career as the Polaris Submarine Project Officer at Electric Boat Division-Groton, CT. He served as the Ballistic Missile Submarine Project Officer for NAVSEA (The Bureau of Ships) in Washington, D.C. And, then, he got smart and moved out to our lovely Pacific Northwest when he became the Head of the Planning Department at

the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. Will then moved on to serve as the Executive Director of the United Way of Kitsap County for five years.



Will then went back into his engineering career when he became the Defense Department Contractor for Unified Industries, Inc. He finished off his long career with serving as the Field Office Manager for Unified Industries.

Somehow, with this very busy work schedule, he found time to serve as the President

of the Bremerton Rotary Club, the President of our Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Navy League Council and the Chairman of the Bremerton City Civil Service Commission. Will Lent was the recipient of the Washington State 1991 "Evergreen Award". This is an award presented to an individual who is being recognized for their volunteer and community service activities.

And a biography of Will Lent can't be complete without mentioning his involvement with the Naval Undersea Museum. He was very instrumental in the founding of and the obtaining grant money to build the Naval Undersea Museum in Keyport. He has been credited for signing up 15,000 of the first 16,000 members of the museum's foundation. Will obtained the initial half-million dollar grant from the state of Washington. He worked with Congressman Norm Dicks to obtain a \$3.5-million-dollar federal grant. Over the years, Will has been credited for obtaining \$6.7 million out of some \$10.7 million dollars of grant money. And..., his lovely wife Nora worked in the gift shop at the Naval Undersea Museum for a number of years.

We are lucky to have Will Lent serving on our Navy League's Board of Directors!

Submitted by Sandra Smith

Safe and Secure for over 100 Years



This is the very first Kitsap Bank in the county. It was located on the corner of Bay Street and Sydney in Port Orchard. The building is still standing and many will recognize it.

Kitsap Bank, headquartered in Port Orchard, WA, is a century-old bank founded in 1908 by Jacob Furth, a Seattle Financier; and three Port Orchard men, George E. Miller, Peter Nordby, and Superior Court Judge John B. Yakey. In 1922, a legacy of family ownership began when Frank E. Langer purchased controlling interest in the Bank. He later served as President until his death in 1952, at which time his wife, Hannah Langer, took over, becoming the first female bank president west of the Mississippi River. Still today the family is actively involved in the bank with Helen Langer Smith, Hannah and Frank's daughter, serving as Chairman of the Board, and Cydly Langer Smith, their granddaughter, as Vice Chairman.

From these humble beginnings, Kitsap Bank has grown to be a leader among community banks in the nation with 25 offices in the Greater Puget Sound region. Today, assets are nearly \$1 billion strong, and they employ over 250 people.

Kitsap Bank is one of our new Community Affiliates. We are delighted to have them as partners in our support of the sea services.

Sailors of the Quarter Honored at Luncheon

Three different departments within Naval Base Kitsap were recognized for their outstanding performance during the Fourth Quarter of 2009 at our February luncheon.

Airman Aviation Ordinance Airman Kaedi A. Hunter was honored for being named the Kitsap Blue Jacket of the Quarter and was accompanied by EMCM Pecosky

Master at Arms Deja M. Grissom was honored for being the Kitsap Junior Sailor of the Quarter and was accompanied by her husband, William Grissom and MACS Parsons and MAC Cooper.

CSI (SW) Danilo B. Buenaflor Jr. was honored as the Kitsap Senior Sailor of the Quarter and accompanied by CSC Marcello.

“Recognizing these sailors is a great opportunity for the chain of command to show its support for its valued uniformed service members by highlighting their achievements—both at work and off duty—which set the Sailor apart. In the case of showcasing these Sailors, we’re providing positive reinforcement that what they’re doing is right on the money, along with showing their peers, juniors and seniors what their fellow shipmates have done for themselves.” Comments from a former NHB Commanding Officer.

Each nomination of the Sailor of the Quarter is thoroughly screened by the department’s leading chief petty officer and on up the chain of command. The Sailors stand before a board of senior enlisted person-

nel and respond to questions. They are scored on their answers, their appearance and their presentation. This means that the Sailors who are recognized at our luncheon are outstanding in their area.

Alice Thomas is our Awards Chair and coordinates the recognition of these worthy individuals and their presentations. Each awardee is presented with a plaque provided by our Community Affiliate, Patriot’s Landing, a gift certificate to a local restaurant, photo sittings provided by Hudson Photography in Bremerton and a Ferrari ride provided by Byron Faber, our trips and tours director. Awards were presented by President Gary Gunderson and accompanied by Alice Thomas.

Submitted by Alice Thomas



(Above) AOAN Kaedi A. Hunter accompanied by EMCM Pecosky, Kitsap Blue Jacket of the Quarter for the Fourth Quarter of 2009. (Right) AOAN Hunter with Awards Chair, Alice Thomas Kitsap Junior Sailor of the Quarter for the Fourth Quarter of 2009



(Above) CSI (SW) Danilo B. Buenaflor, Jr. accompanied by CSC Marcello. (Above left) MA3 Deja M. Grissom, MACS Parsons and MAC Cooper Kitsap Senior Sailor of Quarter for the Fourth Quarter of 2009

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 its 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.



Captain Mark Brouker and Navy League members get ready to start their tour of the Naval Hospital Bremerton.

Planning Ahead

Wednesday, March 3	Council Board Meeting
Thursday, March 4	Luncheon Registrations Deadline, call CTC 360.782.5500
Tuesday, March 9	Monthly Luncheon Meeting, RDML Joseph Aucoin
Monday, March 29	Membership Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 31	Mackie Award Newsletter and Public Affairs Award due to National
Wednesday, April 7	Council Board Meeting
Thursday, April 8	Luncheon Registration Deadline, call CTC 360.782.5500
Tuesday, April 13	Monthly Luncheon Meeting, RDML Symonds, Straits of Magellan
Fri/Sat, April 16,17	Regional Conference-Oak Harbor Area Council Nominations for Area, Region and National Leadership due
Tuesday, April 20	Tour of TTF and Submarine at Bangor
Monday, April 26	Membership Committee Meeting
Wednesday, April 28	Armed Forces Ambassadors Final Speech Keyport Museum 7pm

Welcome Aboard



LT Kellie Randall, COMSUBGRU NINE, PAO shared this picture with me of her new baby boy decked out in a "Navy Blue" sweater with a short note. "All is well! A little boy!"

Welcome Aboard Oliver Patrick and best wishes.

*Submitted by
Gary S Gunderson, President*

Change of Mailing Address

All mail for our council should be sent to :

Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council
Post Office Box 5719
Bremerton, WA 98312

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