



# NOW HEAR THIS!

NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES  
BREMERTON-OLYMPIC PENINSULA COUNCIL



Volume 65, Issue 03

March 2012

## CORPORATE SPONSORS

- ★ Vigor Shipyards
- ★ Concurrent Technologies Corp

## COMMUNITY AFFILIATES

- ★ Air Management Solutions
- ★ AMI International
- ★ BAE Systems Support Solutions
- ★ Concurrent Technologies Corp
- ★ EJB Facilities Services
- ★ Evergreen Transfer & Storage
- ★ First Command Financial Planning, Inc.
- ★ FMA Chapter 14
- ★ Kitsap Sun
- ★ Land Title Company
- ★ Military Air Cargo
- ★ National Center for Manufacturing Sciences
- ★ Navy Federal Credit Union
- ★ Pacific NW Defense Coalition
- ★ Patriots Landing
- ★ Raytheon Integrated Defense Systems
- ★ Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort
- ★ TriWest Healthcare Alliance

## NEW MEMBERS

- ★ Donna Boyle
- ★ Carole Evanoff
- ★ Patrick Boyle
- ★ Fred Nelson
- ★ Richard Coar
- ★ Jo Nelson
- ★ Lynn Culp
- ★ Kelly Tolliver

## Betty Tisdale March 13 Luncheon Speaker

Betty Moul Tisdale is recognized internationally for her humanitarian work on behalf of Asian children. She is known as the Angel of Saigon. In April, 1975, when the communists were 12 miles from Saigon, Mrs. Tisdale, was responsible for the evacuation of 219 orphans from the An Lac Orphanage. The story of this dramatic rescue of the children has been documented in a CBS television movie, *The Children of An Lac*, starring Shirley Jones as Betty.



Betty's story is riveting and she continues to work tirelessly to help children in third world countries. In 2000, Betty Tisdale founded HALO, Helping and Loving Orphans. This organization is dedicated to improving the lives of children in third world countries through relief efforts. She has received numerous honors including the Presidential Commendation in recognition of exceptional service to others, the Medal of Honor from the Daughters of the American Revolution, and a special award by the government of South Vietnam for humanitarianism. She has received the International Service of Mankind Award by the Sertoma Club. In 1999, the Mayor of Seattle proclaimed September 15 as Betty

Tisdale Day. In 2003, she received the Caring Award in Washington, DC.

We are so lucky to have Betty join us for lunch. Make your reservation and join us to hear this interesting story.

Our luncheons are held at the Bangor Conference Center in the Trident Ball Room on base at Bangor. Doors open at 11:00 a.m. for a meet and greet time and our program begins at 11:45. Lunch is \$15 and payable at the door with cash or check.

Please call Diane Garrett at Concurrent Technologies Corporation at 360 782-5500 today with your reservation. Deadline for making reservations is March 8.

**Don't Miss Out!**  
Call CTC now for your luncheon reservation  
360-782-5500



## President's Message

**B**etty Tisdale, our March luncheon speaker, is a national treasure. She is in her 90's and going strong. She

just returned from Bogotá, Columbia and then did a short trip in St. Louis. After our luncheon, she has planned a return trip to Vietnam, site of her amazing work with orphans during the Vietnam War. Rarely do we have an opportunity like this to hear from someone who has made so much history as a civilian in a war zone. Many thanks to Tina Salter for making all of the arrangements for Betty Tisdale, the "Angel of Saigon" to share her stories with us. Make your registration now for March 13.

For the next two years, we will be celebrating the Bicentennial of the War of 1812, so watch for specific events. Even though most of the action took place on the East Coast, some actually happened in our area. The first display will be of our American Flag at the Sylvan Way library in East Bremerton the first week of March. Mrs. Linda Lind, President of the Daughters of the War of 1812, will be responsible for the display.

A huge welcome to Strike Group 3 and the USS John C. Stennis. We are delighted

that you are home and we look forward to hearing stories of your recent adventures. RDML Faller, the Commander of Strike Group 3, will be our keynote speaker on April 10 at our General Membership luncheon.

The USS Nimitz is expecting to arrive any moment at its new home in Everett. We are happy that we can still maintain contact with them. Our Council has joined with five other Navy League Councils to assist in the Welcoming. We have certainly appreciated Captain Monger and his staff's willingness to participate in our luncheons and to let us tour his ship several times.

We are so fortunate to be located in an area where there are so many active duty members of the Sea Services and their families. We also have many veterans who once served here or just heard that this is an area where all military are welcomed and honored.

We all need to continue to be proactive and make certain that we show our appreciation for their service in any way possible. Sometimes that just means a smile in the grocery store.

A big thanks goes to your Board members who are doing such great work.

Let us know how we can improve.

*Carolyn Dankers*

## More about the Important Role of the Ombudsman

**A**nnie is our official link with the Blue team on the USS HMJ and in the newsletter, she wrote a great article describing her role and agreed that I could share it with all of you.

"Why would you call the Ombudsman?" you ask? Good question. As the Command's Ombudsman, I am the official connection between you, the families, and the Navy. The most common job description of an Ombudsman is that we are liaisons. It's true. I definitely liaise (communicate, bridge, act as a go-

between) for both the Command and the families. However, that's not all...I also field phone calls about counseling suggestions, help with Tricare, concerns about pay, baby's being born, family remembers growing ill or passing away, good news, that you want to share, and any number of other suggestions, comments, or concerns. So although I do not have to be your first stop when life happens, I can be. Consider me a great reference. If I don't have the answer I will work to find it.

## Options for Making Luncheon Reservations

**T**hanks to Concurrent Technologies Corporation (CTC), you can call Diane Garrett at 360 782-5500 or by email at [Garrett@ctc.com](mailto:Garrett@ctc.com).

This email option provides you with more flexibility. You can email in the middle of the night or on the weekend and be okay.

**She cautions us to be certain to put Navy League in the "Subject" line at the top of the email or the message might be blocked.**

**Also, make certain that the name you give her matches your picture ID.**

Making reservations is important. This helps give an accurate lunch count so you will find enough food and seating when you attend. Of course, this is in addition to making easier for you to get through the gate. Once the list is finished, the base security people carefully screen the list, as we are definitely guests on a very high security property.

Thank you for your cooperation to make this process work smoothly.

You are welcome to bring guests to the luncheon as long as you provide the following additional information:

**Citizen of the U.S.?**

**Member of Navy League?**

**Date of birth, if no gate access.**

## Mailing Address

**A**ll mail for our council should be sent to :

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

# Navy League Hosts Navy Public Affairs Support Element Sailors

The Navy League Bremerton-Olympic Chapter recognized two Sailors from Navy Public Affairs Support Element (NPASE) West, Detachment Northwest during an awards luncheon held at the Bangor Plaza on Naval Base Kitsap Bangor, Feb. 14.

During the luncheon, Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class (SW/AW) Michael E. Wagoner, NPASE 2011 Shore Senior Sailor of the Year, and Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Ryan J. Riley, NPASE 2011 Shore Blue Jacket of the Year, received plaques and a special Valentine's Day surprise from the Navy League.

Navy Public Affairs Support Element (NPASE) was established in November 2008. The command supports Carrier Strike Groups and Amphibious Ready Groups using Sea Operational Detachments typically comprised of five Mass Communication Specialists and one public affairs officer. NPASE also provides public affairs and visual information support to Component and Unified Commanders in a variety of mission areas, including Africa Partnership Station, Southern Partnership Station; contingency support for emergent operations, and all U.S. Navy humanitarian missions such as those aboard USNS MERCY (T-AH 19) and USNS COMFORT (T-AH 20). Additionally, with detachments in seven of 11 Navy regions, the command provides direct and indirect support to regional public affairs offices for key events including fleet weeks and Navy responses to weather-related events such as hurricanes and floods.

NPASE Headquarters is located aboard Naval Station Norfolk, Va. Headquarters is responsible for training, operations of NPASE as well as management of the Fleet Hometown News program. There are two sea-duty centers, one in Norfolk and the other in San Diego, Calif. Additionally, there are nine detachments in the United States, Europe and Japan, as well as three



reserve detachments.

Wagoner's accomplishments leading to his selection as NPASE Shore SOY include supervising 10 Sailors across three geographic areas (Bangor, Everett, Whidbey), ensuring all mission, training and administrative requirements were met. His mentorship led to detachment Sailors receiving numerous awards, including two Navy Chief of Information Shore Blue Jackets of the Quarter, one NPASE West Shore Junior Sailor of the Quarter, two advancements and seven Sailors receiving Flag Letters of Commendation. Wagoner also played an instrumental role in the assignment, editing and release of 150 print stories, 400 images and 55 video products which were released via the Navy's website, Defense Media Activity, Defense Imagery Management Operations Command and the Navy Region Northwest's newspaper, Northwest Navigator and was distributed to internal and external media outlets worldwide. Wagoner was integrated in the coordination, planning and coverage of operations and exercises including PACIFIC PASSAGE, CITADEL RUMBLE, EVERGREEN QUAKE, TRIDENT FURY, TURBOCADS, SOLID CURTAIN/CITA-

DEL SHIELD and Portland and Seattle fleet weeks. Additionally, Wagoner set new leadership benchmarks, maintaining a 100 percent passing detachment Physical Fitness Assessment rate across all three Northwest detachments and serving the community heading up more than 500 hours of community service.

Riley's accomplishments leading to his selection as NPASE Shore BJOY include his demonstrated expertise in supporting Navy strategic communication objectives through his production of more than 25 video products, 10 print stories and numerous images. He provided flawless support during his participation in Portland and Seattle fleet weeks, and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) West's visit to the Pacific Northwest. He fulfilled the command support roles of Morale, Welfare and Recreation coordinator, junior personnel Command Financial Specialist, and Assistant Supply Petty Officer. Additionally, Riley contributed 180 volunteer hours to the local community.

This marks the fourth consecutive year an NPASE Northwest Sailor has been selected as SOY/JSOY or BJOY.



# USS Bremerton Awards Ceremony



On a bright and very warm January 20, 2012, the ship's company of our adopted unit, the USS Bremerton (SSN 698) was mustered on the pier beside the boat for the awarding of outstanding achievement awards for this year. Four sailors had been selected out of the crew, although all were deserving of accolades.

These awards were the second year of presentations from the Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula council of the Navy League, and are highly sought after, according to the skipper, CDR Caleb Kerr. While all of the entire crew are very fine examples of young US Citizens and worthy Naval personnel, these four had been selected based upon superior performance over the past year.

They are:

Machinist's Mate 2nd Class (SS) Charles Corcoran for engineering

Culinary Specialist 2nd Class (SS) Bevon Drummond for supply

Electronics technician 2nd Class (SS) Christopher Beal for navigation

Sonar Technician 2nd Class (SS) Jerry Verant for tactics and weapons

Besides receiving congratulations from the Commanding Officer and from me as the representative of our Navy League Council, the Commodore of Sub Group 1, Captain Stanley Robertson was present to speak to each one.

It was then my pleasure to speak for a few minutes to tell the crew of the USS

Bremerton how much they are appreciated and honored by us at home, and to always remember that throughout life they can think back with satisfaction that they served their country honorably.

The Commodore and CDR Kerr then presented several awards for excellence, including the second year in a row that the USS Bremerton has been the outstanding boat of the squadron in spite of being the oldest.

The crew is performing at the highest level of competence and we can be very proud of them. It will be a great pleasure to welcome them to Bremerton when they have the opportunity to visit.

*Submitted by Byron Faber*



*I knew I saw something down there.*

Puget Sound welcomes the crew of the USS Ronald Reagan as she pulls into Bremerton. A special group was invited to join her as she entered Rich Passage and Sinclair Inlet. Our Judge Advocate, George Rose was among the privileged few who had a close up view of the Reagan as she entered our area. On the ride were Joe Dacca, representing Congressman Norm Dicks and Captain Pete Dawson, CO of Naval Base Kitsap.

# Navy League Legislative Agenda

**N**avy League of the United States was first organized in 1902 to work with Congress to ensure that we have a strong Navy. 120 years later, our organization is still supporting the same concept.

The Legislative agenda for this Congress highlights the following:

- The sea services of the United States represent a global force for good, and we are the greatest force for peace in the world due to both their ability to protect the sea-lanes for world trade.
- Budget tensions and ongoing, real world contingency operations have severely strained our maritime forces.
- The shipbuilding industrial base capacity has atrophied to levels that cannot adequately support national

security.

- The importance of proactively taking care of our service members and their families cannot be overstated in this period of extraordinarily high operational tempo.

- Given these concerns, the Navy League recommends resetting our maritime services to a state where they can effectively execute their deterrence mission and maintain maritime superiority through robust top line funding for our sea services in FY 2012 and beyond.

In upcoming months you will learn more about some of the urgent combat capability needs. In the meantime, you Seapower magazine will continue to highlight many of these issues.



*ATLANTIC OCEAN (Feb. 4, 2012) The aircraft carrier USS Enterprise (CVN 65), left, and the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyers USS Porter (DDG 78) and USS Cole (DDG 67) are underway participating in exercise Bold Alligator 2012. Bold Alligator, the largest naval amphibious exercise in the past 10 years, represents the Navy and Marine Corps' revitalization of the full range of amphibious operations. The exercise focuses on today's fight with today's forces, while showcasing the advantages of seabasing. This exercise takes place Jan. 30 through Feb. 12, 2012 afloat and ashore in and around Virginia and North Carolina. #BA12 (U.S. Navy photo by Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Alfredo R. Martinez II/Released)*

# Council Helps Support Operation Homefront's Float



**N**avy League and Operation Homefront have a special relationship at the national and local level. Since last December, the two groups have been working together to provide support for our military and their families. On March 21, Operation Homefront was one of the local non-profit agencies chosen to have a float in an indoor parade at the Suquamish Clearwater Casino.

The Mardi Gras spirit was alive and well as volunteers from 20 non-profit groups showed off their prize floats. These floats were built on top of little red wagons that could be pulled around the casino. They had been on display for almost two weeks and then a group of judges voted on the ones who would receive \$5,000 worth of prize money. All entrants received \$50 for participating.

Forty-seven service organizations applied to be part of the parade and 20 were selected at random. Dodie and Doug Garner, Helen Miller and Carolyn Dankers, four of our board members were there to support and encourage Sharlet Guzman and the Operation Homefront entry.



# A Remarkable 1,109,310 Lives Saved by the Service Since 1790

The United States Coast Guard has reached a remarkable public service milestone. The service has rescued more than one million people since its inception in 1790.

Marking its 217th birthday in the communities of Grand Haven, Spring Lake and Ferrysburg, Michigan, the United States Coast Guard marked the passing of a major milestone during its annual celebration. Officials announced that the service has saved 1,109,310 lives since its inception in 1790.

Recognition from the Top - In a press release issued for the Grand Haven event, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff says of the Coast Guard, "When things are at their worst, America's Coast Guard is at its best. What began as a revenue enforcement agency with a fleet of ten cutters established by Alexander Hamilton more than 200 years ago has evolved into the world's premiere multi-mission, maritime and military service. It's fitting that we celebrate the Coast Guard's 217th birthday this August 4th as we recognize its brave men and women for saving more than 1 million lives over the course of its long and storied history."

One of the Armed Services - The smallest of the five armed forces of the United States, the Coast Guard started its service to the country on August 4, 1790 as the Revenue Cutter Service commissioned to enforce tariff laws and reduce smuggling. The young agency's mission grew to include maritime safety and rescue of mariners in distress. The service changed its name to the Coast Guard after merging with the Life Saving Service and Lighthouse Service in 1915, establishing a single organization devoted to marine safety and law enforcement.

\* Data Source - To find the number of lives saved, historians at the Coast Guard researched logs and records from all the

agencies that would eventually form the current organization. Additionally, using information gathered in the project, the historian's office assembled what it thought were the ten most significant rescue events in the service's long record of public service. The list records a remarkable variety and breadth of rescues over the last 217 years. "While this top-ten list is subjective, it certainly conveys the heroism of our people conducting this vital mission," said Rear Admiral Mary Landry, Coast Guard Director of Governmental and Public Affairs.

With many additional duties arising from new homeland security missions, many worry the Coast Guard will neglect its traditional marine safety mission. Development of the Rescue 21 Program, a field command system organizing disparate resources into Sectors, funding the Deepwater Acquisition Program, updating its Boat Forces Strategic Plan, and establishment of multi-mission stations are efforts underway meant to enhance the service's mission performance

## All Time Top Ten Coast Guard Rescues

Although the technology has advanced the common theme through the years is the heroism of Coast Guard women and men."

#1: **Hurricane Katrina** - During search and rescue (SAR) operations in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Coast Guard personnel rescued 24,135 lives from imminent danger and evacuated 9,409 hospital patients to safety. Coast Guard aircraft flew 1,817 missions for a total of 4,291 hours of flight time and 5,000 personnel participated in Katrina related operations.

#2: **Prinsendam Rescue** - The Dutch cruise ship Prinsendam caught fire 130 miles off the coast of Ketchikan, Alaska

with 520 passengers onboard. Passengers abandoned the vessel in lifeboats and the cruise ship eventually sank. All passengers and crew of the Prinsendam were saved without any deaths or serious injuries.

#3: **Pendleton Rescue** - During a severe New England storm on February 18, 1952, the oil tankers SS Fort Mercer and SS Pendleton broke in half near Chatham, Massachusetts. Coxswain and crew of motor lifeboat CG-36500 rescued the Pendleton's crewmembers one by one off the stern of the stricken vessel. The motor lifeboat crew saved 33 of the 34 crew. All told, Coast Guard personnel saved 62 people from the two tankers.

#4: **Dorchester Rescue** - Coast Guard cutters Comanche and Escanaba responded to the torpedoing of the transport ship Dorchester off the coast of Greenland on February 3, 1943. Survivors in the cold water had only minutes to live without rescue. This incident saw the first use of rescue swimmers using wetsuits to help pull sailors from the water. Combined, the two cutters saved 230 crew members.

#5: **Joshua James and the Hull, Massachusetts Life Saving Station** - During the period of November 25th to 26th, 1888, Keeper Joshua James and the crew of the Hull, Massachusetts Life Saving Station rescued 28 people from some five different boats floundering in a severe New England storm. Rescues included use of beach equipment and life boats.

#6: **Priscilla Rescue** - Surfman Rasmus Midgett of the Gull Shoal Life Saving Station, North Carolina, single-handedly rescued ten people off the barkentine Priscilla grounded just off the beach August 18, 1899. Midgett towed and dragged each crewmember, one at a time through the surf to safety.

#7: **Keeper George N. Gray and the Charlotte, New York Life Saving Sta-**

Cont'd on page 7



# Planning Ahead

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

March 8	Last day to register for the monthly luncheon, call 360 782-5500
March 8	Oak Harbor Council Installation, Oak Harbor, 6:00 p.m.
March 13	Luncheon, "Angel of Saigon," Trident Ball Room, Bangor, \$15. 11 a.m.
March 14	Council Board Meeting, Café Noir, Silverdale, 5:30 p.m.
March 17	St. Patrick's Day
March 21	Lake Washington Council Dinner, Bellevue
March 31	Military Appreciation Day, Fairgrounds
April 5	Last day to register for monthly luncheon, call 360 782-5500
April 10	Luncheon, RDML Faller, Commander Strike Group 3, Trident Ballroom, Bangor
April 11	Council Board Meeting, Café Noir, Silverdale, 5:30 p.m.

## Lives Saved by Service (cont'd)

**tion** - During the period of December 14th to 15th, 1902, Keeper George Gray and the crew of the Charlotte, New York, rescued five people from the wreck of the schooner John R. Noyes. The rescue saw the life saving station crew under oars for nearly a day and a half in freezing conditions, traveling 60 miles to affect the rescue.

**#8: Overland Rescue** - At the request of a group of whaling companies, President William McKinley sent a Coast Guard expedition sailing on the revenue cutter Bear to Point Barrow, Alaska to rescue 265 crewmen trapped in the arctic ice. The crew were unlikely to survive the winter. Blocked by the ice, the Coast Guard rescue party traveled 1,500 overland in 103 days to reach the stranded sailors with food supplies on March 29, 1898.

**#9: Bermuda Sky Queen Rescue** - On

October 14, 1947, the flying boat Bermuda Sky was forced down due to low fuel and gale winds. The aircraft's pilot flew his craft towards the Coast Guard cutter Bibb standing by on Ocean Station Charlie. The Bibb used a fifteen-man raft to transfer the aircraft crew and passengers to safety in 30-foot seas. It took more than a day due to the darkness to rescue all 69 people onboard the Bermuda Sky.

**#10: Mississippi River Flood of 1937** - Coast Guard personnel, "removed from perilous positions to places of safety," 48,853 stricken by the great 1937 flood of the Mississippi River. There were more people rescued in this incident than that experienced in Hurricane Katrina operations.

The Coast Guard has compiled a video of rescue videos available for viewing on You Tube.

### 2012 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	Carolyn Dankers

### COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS

- ★ Tom Danaher
- ★ Drake Evans
- ★ Byron Faber
- ★ Patricia Germane
- ★ Robert Hoag
- ★ Robert Cairns
- ★ Doug Garner
- ★ Dodie Garner
- ★ Bob Lamb
- ★ Neva Lamb
- ★ Will Lent
- ★ Helen Miller
- ★ Larry Salter
- ★ Tina Salter
- ★ Erin Sorensen
- ★ James Walkowski

**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 provided to all members.

**Editorial Board** Carolyn Dankers  
Susan Larsen

**Graphic Layout** Kirk Piering

**Published by** Raytheon

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 5719  
Bremerton, WA 98312

or email: [c.dankers@wavecable.com](mailto:c.dankers@wavecable.com)



Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council  
Navy League of the United States  
Post Office Box 5719  
Bremerton, WA 98312

Non Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Silverdale, WA  
Permit No.111

Address change requested

## 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.**