



Now Hear This!



Navy League of the United States

Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council

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Armed Forces Festival Events



Last years Armed Forces Day Parade Grand Marshall, Vice Admiral Samuel Locklear and his wife, Pam, ride in style. Photo by Sandra Howes

Each year, the Armed Forces Festival gets bigger and better. One of the first events is a lively story from the notes of someone who actually sailed in the 1906 Great White Fleet Expedition sent out by President Theodore Roosevelt. Admiral Frank Caldwell will share the story at the Kitsap Historical Society Museum on 4th Street in Bremerton. Seating is limited so please call them to make a reservation, even though the event is free.

The Culinary Competition will feature

military teams from across the United States on May 8 at Olympic College. In addition to the Iron Chef style cook off, there will be ice carving competitions and bands to keep things lively. Everybody is welcome.

On Friday, May 14 at the Port Orchard Pavilion, there will be a special Hawaiian style luau to celebrate the great work done by Chief Petty Officers and Master Chiefs, or their equivalent, in all of the military branches. This

is a super example of local Chambers and their military affairs committees, along with PSNBA and Navy League working together to make this event very special. Active and retired CPO's and non-commissioned officers and their dates are welcome to attend. Members of the supporting groups are certainly welcome. The entertainment is going to be outstanding. Aloha Kitchen in Silverdale is providing food. Moon Dogs 2 is providing

Continued on page 7

Upcoming Events - Save the Date

- ★ May 11 – Monthly luncheon: Five Generations of a Military Family
- ★ May 14 – CPO/Chief's Luau
- ★ May 15 – Armed Forces Festival Parade
Navy League Armed Forces Gala
- ★ May 31 – Memorial Day on the USS Turner Joy



President's Message

and Receptions

▪ Tax Deductible Donations

Your support is important now more-than-ever so please catch me at the next luncheon or give me a call about volunteering with us.

*Respectfully submitted,
Gary S Gunderson*

Fort Warden Restoration Work

In late February, I spent a day at Ft Warden, in Port Townsend, to help a small group of Artillery Museum volunteers repair some handrails on artillery hill's gun battery where the movie "Officer and a Gentleman" was filmed.

Agreeing to return later to help rebuild over 100 feet of wooden stairways up a steep hillside to the "communications bunker", I also set up a community service project for our Sea Cadet Battalion to clear some brush for public pathways and so it goes, volunteering for one project leads to others that can represent our councils broader commitment to the community.

The Ft Warden Artillery Museum is also giving us some unused sections of WWII anti submarine nets that I will be taking to NAVMAG Indian Island for a new historic display at the building where the sub nets were assembled during World War II for protecting both the Bremerton Ship Yard and Port Townsend's inner Harbor.

Ft Warden, Ft Casey and Ft Flagler formed a shore battery "Triangle of Fire" protecting the entrance to Puget Sound and were commanded by the US Army but the Top Secret communication center was run by the US Navy.

*Submitted by
Gary S Gunderson*

In Honor of Those Who Serve

The Navy League Armed Forces Gala allows our council to honor our military and our community. This event encourages the positive interaction of business and community leaders with local and national military leaders in a historic fun setting.

Vice Admiral McCoy will serve as the Parade Grand Marshal and as our Gala keynote speaker He is the Commander of Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA.) His command is responsible for building and repairing of all Navy vessels and controls 20% of the Navy budget. Vice Admiral McCoy will serve as the Parade Grand Marshal and as our Gala keynote speaker.

Fleet Master Chief, US Pacific Fleet, John Minyard is our second special guest. He will also be participating in the parade and will be a guest speaker at the Gala. We are hoping that he will join us for the CPO-Chief's Luau on May 14.

Specific details for the Gala are inside, but note that there are some changes. This year we will have a dance band and a dance floor for those who want to do more than just tap their toes. Tuck, the bandleader is a retired Navy Master Chief and promises to play music for everyone.

Also, please consider sponsoring a service member and spouse. We would love to have as many young men and women in uniform as possible

Come enjoy an action packed evening. Call the Admiral Theatre at 360 373-6743 as soon as possible. Tickets are going quickly.

Volunteering is part of our culture and plays out in a variety of forms including our **all volunteer military**. A special camaraderie comes from standing together in demonstration of our gratitude to the men and women serving in the Sea Services for their contribution to the security of our nation and our special way of life.

Many of us volunteer in service organizations of church, business and community, taking it in stride as a normal part of life but in-fact you are special by giving your time, talents and financial to support others. Your attendance at meetings, luncheons and special events is a clear measure of our support for special guest speakers and sailor awardees...and it's always informative and fun. Please join us as often as you can.

Our Navy League's mission to "inform" the general public can best be done by simply sharing with friends, family and people we meet, the special benefits that we enjoy as members of our very active local Bremerton-Olympic Council:

- Monthly **Newsletter** of upcoming events and activities
- Monthly **Sea Power Magazine** for in-depth national reports
- Monthly **Special Guest Speakers** at Council Luncheons
- Local support of **US Naval Sea Cadets** and **NJROTC**
- **Tours of Surface Ships, Submarines** and **Commands**
- Attending **Special Formal Military Ceremonies**
- Navy League special events, **Dinners**

Naval Career of Vice Admiral William Renwick Smedberg III Slated for Topic of Navy League Luncheon

Bob Nugent of local Naval Consulting Firm AMI International will serve as the guest speaker for the Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Navy League Council's May luncheon. His topic: "Reflections on the Life and Career of Vice Admiral William Renwick Smedberg III."

Bob served as a U.S. naval officer for 22 years, retiring in 2007. Bob graduated with distinction from the U.S. Naval War College in 2004 and is a graduate of both the U.S. Navy Post Graduate School and the Defense Language Institute, where he studied Russian. His Navy assignments included attaché duty in Moscow, staff duty in London, operational assignments with aviation and expeditionary units and a tour on the Navy acquisition staff in the Pentagon. Bob Nugent is currently the Vice President of Advisory Services for AMI International.

Bob's interest in VADM Smedberg's career comes from having married into the Smedberg family—his wife Nancy is the granddaughter of VADM Smedberg and daughter of VADM Smedberg's younger son, CAPT (Ret) Ted Smedberg, USNA '58. The Smedberg family has long

and storied history of service to country. Two Smedberg brothers served with distinction in a New York regiment and with the 14th U.S. Infantry Regiment during the Civil War—including citations for service during the Battles of Gettysburg and the Wilderness. Later generations of Smedbergs served during the Spanish American War and World War I.

VADM William Renwick Smedberg III born in Fort Grant, Arizona Territory, son of an Army brigadier general. He grew up in the Washington D.C. area and graduated from the Naval Academy in the class of 1926, where he was a classmate and friend of Admiral Arleigh Burke. He retired in 1964 after 38 years on active duty, including command of destroyers in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters during World War II, as well as command of the battleship USS Iowa during the Korean War. Of particular note, he served as Superintendent of the Naval Academy from 1956-1958 and Chief of Naval Personnel in the early 1960s.

Bob will focus his presentation on the themes of Admiral Smedberg's outstanding leadership in war and peace and his uniquely personal

touch. Admiral Smedberg was instrumental in creating the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium to honor the generations that served the Navy. He was also distinguished by his tireless commitment to protecting those who served—and their families—both while he was on active duty and after his retirement. His is a lasting legacy and he is fondly remembered by the many thousands who knew him.

The monthly luncheon for the Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Navy League will be held on Tuesday, May 11th, 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.

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, April 8th. 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>).

Enlisted Person of the Quarter



SK1 Danielle Midgley was honored for being the Maritime Force Protection Unit Bangor Enlisted Person of the Quarter for the October 2009 – December 2009. This Maritime Force Protection Unit Bangor awardee was presented with a plaque provided by Patriot's Landing, a gift certificate to a local restaurant, photo sittings provided by Hudson Photography and a Ferrari ride provided by Byron Faber. These awards were presented by Alice Thomas, Awards Chair. SK1 Midgley was accompanied by her husband, Boatswain 2nd Class Aaron Haas, her XO, CDR Kevin Jones and Master Chief Penny Koons.

*Submitted by
Gary S Gunderson*

CMDCM (SS) Ron Johnson Retires



CMDCM (SS) Ronald Johnson

Friends and family packed the Bremerton Yacht Club on Friday March 12th to enjoy a rich variety of personal “sea stories” and a full pallet of North Dakota humor while honoring CMDCM (SS) Ron Johnson’s formal retirement from the U.S. Navy.

Master Chief Johnson’s energetic and confidant smile is his “calling card” and

the significant respect that he earned during his 30 year career was evidenced by eight Command Master Chiefs from around the country serving as “Side Boys”, guest speaker Master Chief of the Navy, Rick West and Officiating Retiring Officer, RDML James A. Symonds who added personal notes.

Ron surprised everyone when he invited retired Captain T.J. Dargan, former Chief of Staff Command Navy Region Northwest, to the podium and initiated him as an “Honorary Chief”.

We all enjoyed this rare treat with our friend T J and especially his blushing smile.

The winner of the “choke first” pool wasn’t announced but Admiral Symonds came close when he referred to Master Chief Johnson as a “shipmate”. The evening was special for all of us and Ron from your friends in the Bremerton Navy League...Thank you for your service and we wish you the very best.

Submitted by Gary S Gunderson



Sarah and T.J. Dargan with Guy Stitt enjoying the retirement ceremony.

Council honors SKI Danielle Midgley



Coast Guardsman SKI Danielle Midgley honored at our monthly luncheon for exceptional work with the US Coast Guard. She managed over 1.1 million dollars in funds in direct support of 108 unit personnel and Navy joint operations. She financially orchestrated the CGC Sea Fox’s 60-day voyage from St. Petersburg, Florida to homeport NBK Bangor, WA. Some of the planning included the Se Fox’s 14 port of calls for fuel and food throughout Central and South America.

SPCO Penny Koons describes PO Midgley’s adherence to Coast Guard values of honor, respect and devotion to duty as outstanding. PO Midgley volunteered as one of the NBK Bangor Volunteer Income Tax assistant reps assisting all military members and their families with their personal income tax preparations.

She dedicated over 30 hours to financially educate crew members and their families on budgets, credit card interest rates and investing. She is described as an asset to the Coast Guard Maritime force Protection Unit team and deserves being the “Enlisted Person of the Quarter”.

*Taken from notes by
PO Penny Koons, USCG*

U.S. Coast Guard Seattle Base Tour



Recently, twenty one fortunate folks (Navy League, ESGR and other friends of the Coast Guard) were hosted to a very comprehensive and informative tour of the base located at Pier 36. The sun was gleaming, the Coast Guard was most hospitable and the tour group was full of smiles.

The group was treated to a very special overview of a most important facility

that provides maritime communications, security, search and rescue as well as being the home base to our prestigious icebreaker fleet.

The day included seeing the USCGC Mellon depart the base for an assignment, tours of the Joint Harbor Operations Center, the Electronic Systems Support Unit Seattle, the Coast Guard Museum Northwest, the USCGC Polar Star, the USCGC Midgett and a brief visit on

the USCGC Healy. The visit included a sumptuous lunch and was topped off with a helicopter rescue demonstration done by a helicopter crew from Port Angeles.

We heard a number of Coast Guard people mention how much they appreciate what the Navy League does for them. Let's continue to show how much more we can do to support the Coast Guard and their priceless services.

Submitted by Tony Caruso

Public and Private Partners Celebrate Groundbreaking

Keyport, Wash - A groundbreaking ceremony was held at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, March 8 to celebrate the beginning of a 12-month geothermal conversion project that is anticipated to significantly reduce energy usage and energy costs. The project is a result of a partnership between private industry and several Navy commands.

During the ceremony, RDML James Symonds, Commander, Navy Region Northwest, listed some of the Secretary of Navy's energy goals, "which are truly stretch goals and rightly so." One goal referenced was for half of all shore installations to produce as much energy as they use.

The system upgrades are projected to reduce NUWC Keyport's energy consumption by more than 30% and eliminates aged and inefficient energy infrastructure," said Captain Stephen Iwanowicz, NUWC Division Keyport Commander. "Equally impressive is that the project was made

possible through an innovative financing mechanism that does not use military construction dollars."

The project is unique in the manner of financing: Rather than utilize military construction dollars, the contractor, Trane is financing the project. NUWC Keyport will pay for the construction improvements over the 18-year contract term based on savings Trane has guaranteed NUWC Keyport will realize.

"Keyport is a shining example of the difference made when officials commit to cost-saving environmental improvements," said David Regnery, President, North America Region for Hussmann, Thermo King and Trane. "Upgrades will reduce energy costs, improve the working and living environment for those on the base and make the base more environmentally friendly."

Partners in this project include Trane,

NUWC Keyport, Naval Base Kitsap, Navy Region Northwest and Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest.

"I am really excited about this partnership and continuing to demonstrate our commitment to energy reduction here at Keyport and with our partners, said Jim VanAntwerp, SES, Division Technical Director. "It goes to show we can all really make a difference on our environment."

Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Division Keyport's mission is to operate the Navy's full-spectrum research, development, test and evaluation, engineering and Fleet support center for submarines, autonomous underwater systems, and offensive and defensive weapon systems associates with USW and related areas of homeland security and national defense.

For more information, contact the NUWC Public Affairs Office at (360) 396-2699.

Two Sea Cadets Hit Major Milestone



On March 13th, 2010, two Sea Cadets were promoted to the highest rank a cadet can reach: Chief Petty Officer.

Erik D. Mueller, Jr from Kitsap Battalion, which is a unit based on the world famous SeaBees, out of Keyport WA, and Charlie Motzer from Blue Angels Squadron, Seattle WA, were recognized in a ceremony onboard the USS Turner Joy, DD-951, in downtown Bremerton in front of their peers and family. The Hornet Division from Tacoma, WA was also on board to witness this momentous occasion (see photos on next page).

CPO Mueller's parents were on hand to perform the tradition of pinning the anchors on the collar and placing the Combination Cover on their son. In the United States Navy, it is a tradition for the Chief Petty Officers to place the Combination Cover on the newly pinned Chief Petty Officers to welcome them to the Chiefs' Mess.

Before the ceremony, there was a pass-

down to the new LPO of Kitsap Battalion, PO2 Nick Nelsen. PO2 Nelsen relieved Chief Mueller as LPO so Chief Mueller could assume his new position of Leading Chief Petty Officer.

LJTG James Byass-Rascoe, USNSCC, CO of Kitsap Battalion and INST Joel Guay, USNSCC, of Blue Angels Squadron, read the citations that formally recognized them as Chief Petty Officers in the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps.

In order for one to be promoted to Chief Petty Officer, the cadet has to have a certain amount of time in rate, be promoted through the ranks, attend certain trainings, complete an extensive list of correspondence courses, and be approved by the NSCC Executive Director.

The minimum time (as long as each rank is attained in the time required and all requirements are met) on board the Sea Cadets to attain Chief Petty Officer is 33 months.

If a Sea Cadet attains the rank of E-3, and the cadet decides to join any of the sea-going services, the cadet can come in as an E-3 in the United States Navy or United States Coast Guard or an E-2 in the United States Marine Corps.

If you would like information on how to join the Sea Cadets, please contact WO Rob Medal at 360-536-8098, or go to our website, <http://www.usnscckitsap.co.nr> and click on "Contact Information" and fill out the information.

If you would like our award winning Color Guard to perform for your event or if you need someone for parking detail (our unit has done several events like Whaling Days and the Brownsville Appreciation Days where we ran parking details), click on "Public Affairs" and we will get to you within 24-48 hours of your request.

*Submitted by Rob Medal,
WO, USNSCC, Public Affairs Officer,
Kitsap Battalion*



Erik D. Mueller, Jr (top) and Charlie Motzer (above) receive CPO promotions.

Armed Forces Day (Cont'd)

a no host bar. Contact Leah Wattree at leah@portorchardpavilion.com for reservations. Dust off those island clothes and enjoy.

Of course, the biggest event is the parade on Saturday May 15. Bands from across the state will be marching along with representatives from so many organizations. We have just changed our parade entry so come and be surprised.

Thanks to our past president, Guy Stitt, for once again arranging for a great military Grand Marshall for this parade. He always finds a winner.

On May 31, participate in the Memorial Day Service at 10 am on board the USS Turner Joy at the Bremerton Marina. Our council treasurer, Tim Katona has been responsible for this event for several years and always does a great job. Even the eagles come in to participate

A complete schedule is available inside the newsletter

Bremerton Chamber of Commerce deserves a big round of applause for all of their continued hard work during the year to make these events happen. We are certainly proud to be able to partner with them as we honor those who serve. Contact them for more details about many of the events.

Planning Ahead

Wednesday, May 5	Council Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Reid Real Estate, Silverdale
Thursday, May 6	Luncheon Registration Deadline Call CTC - 360.782.5500
Tuesday, May 11	Monthly Luncheon Event, 11 a.m. Mr. Robert Nugent, Bangor Plaza Personal insight of a great military family
Monday, May 31	Memorial Day Services, 10 a.m. USS Turner Joy

*See schedule of events for Armed Forces Festival information

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.

Editor Board Sandra Smith
Susan Larsen
Leah Wattree
Greg Jose

Graphic Design Kirk Piering

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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 5719
Bremerton, WA 98312

or email: c.dankers@wavecable.com



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