



# NOW HEAR THIS!

NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES  
BREMERTON-OLYMPIC PENINSULA COUNCIL



Volume 63, Issue 12

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## 2010 COUNCIL OFFICERS

President	Gary Gunderson 206.365.4219 <a href="mailto:GaryG924@msn.com">GaryG924@msn.com</a>
Vice President	Carolyn Dankers 360.769.7415 <a href="mailto:c.dankers@wavecable.com">c.dankers@wavecable.com</a>
Secretary	Susan Larsen 360.265.1441 <a href="mailto:susan@landtitleco.net">susan@landtitleco.net</a>
Treasurer	Tim Katona 360.674.2628 <a href="mailto:mayflower616@donobi.net">mayflower616@donobi.net</a>
Judge Advocate	George Rose 253.514.6793 <a href="mailto:Lamrose@aol.com">Lamrose@aol.com</a>
Immediate Past President	David Thomas 360.373.2673 <a href="mailto:DThomas751@aol.com">DThomas751@aol.com</a>

## COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS

- ★ Karen Ebersole
- ★ Byron Faber
- ★ Mike Hancock
- ★ Greg Jose
- ★ Will Lent
- ★ Mark Lowe
- ★ Louis Mejia
- ★ Norma Parker
- ★ Larry Salter
- ★ Tina Salter
- ★ Alice Thomas

## NEW MEMBERS

*Welcome Aboard*

- ★ Tamara Ryley

## Rear Admiral Biesel Speaker for December 14 Luncheon

We welcome Rear Admiral Douglass T. Biesel's return to our area in his new role as Commander, Navy Region Northwest.

As Commander of Naval Submarine Base Bangor, about five years ago, the then Captain Biesel was responsible for the consolidation of most U.S. Naval Installation facilities in Washington State west of Puget Sound, including Bangor, Bremerton, Keyport



and Manchester. In its first year of operations, Naval Base Kitsap received the President's Commander in Chief's Award for Installation Excellence for the best base in the Navy.

In June 2010, RDML Biesel reported as Commander, Navy Region Northwest. His previous flag officer assignments include serving as commander Navy Region Midwest and commander, Joint Region Marianas in Guam.

RDML Biesel had a command tour aboard the USS Philadelphia during which time the ship was awarded the Commander, Submarine Squadron 12 Battle Efficiency "E" Ribbon and Meritorious Unit Commendation. Rear Admiral Biesel is also the recipient of the defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (two

awards), Meritorious Service Medal (five awards), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation medals (four awards), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and numerous personal and unit awards. One of these awards was the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award which is given to only about one out of every 1,000 Eagle Scouts.

When Rear Admiral Biesel was here before, he volunteered service to the community as a member of the Kitsap County Chamber of Commerce, Washington member of the Economic Development Council, and served the youth of his community as a member of the Kitsap County Board of Education, and as a volunteer through the Boy Scouts of America. He might not be as active this time as he is responsible for such a huge geographical area.

We certainly welcome Rear Admiral Biesel's return to our area and look forward to him speaking at our December luncheon. Please make reservations as soon as possible by calling CTC at 360.782.5500. Bring a friend or two to enjoy this presentation.

## Luncheon Deadline

Call CTC now for your luncheon reservation

360-782-5500



# Annual President's Message

We are the only "Large Council" now in the Pacific Northwest. The relevance of our council's accomplishments can be measured in part

by our stable membership base. Gig Harbor's Council merged with us this year and we are continuing support of their Adopted Unit in the USCG Sector Seattle and Navy submarine USS Henry M. Jackson SSBN 730.

We achieved "Outstanding Council Award for 2009" thanks to past president Dave Thomas. Norma Parker, Kirk Piering and Raytheon's published Council Newsletter won second place for the national "Mackie Award." Dave Thomas and I were both honored by Rear Admiral Jim Symonds, who presented each of us with the special "Friend of the Navy" award for 2010.

**Monthly Luncheon** attendance at the Bangor Plaza grew substantially this year. Prominent guest speakers were invited by our chairman Will Lent with Carolyn Dankers, Norma Parker, George Rose and Tony Ivanjack setting the tone with warm hearted welcomes. National Navy League President Dan Branch, Rear Admirals; Jim Symonds, Joseph Aucoin and Frank Caldwell, Doug Biesel; Regional Navy, Coast Guard and Marine CO's; NBK Ombudsmen, Bob Nugent and Will Lent all gave us a stimulating year.

**Council Tours** give us "first hand" experience with the operational side of toured commands. Byron Faber's enthusiasm gave us a year of fun social events and informative tours including: Submarine, Aircraft Carrier, Naval Air Station, Coast Guard and Navy Base Tours.

**Our Newsletter** has a bright new masthead designed by Greg Jose along with a fresh council letterhead. A special "Thank You" to Carolyn Dankers communications committee with Greg Jose, Susan Larson, Linda Potter, Leah Wattree, Sandra Smith, Kirk Piering and Raytheon.

**Awards** are an important way for us to recognize our highest achieving Sea Services Sailors/Marines of the Quarter/Year. We presented more than 40 award plaques which Alice Thomas presented flawlessly.

**Youth Programs** are fundamental to our mission and our Teddy Roosevelt Medal is highly prized by young cadets. We also provide financial aid for cadet leadership training. Thanks, **Greg Jose**.

Kitsap Battalion U S Naval Sea Cadets  
Port Angeles High School NJROTC  
Bremerton High School NJROTC  
South Kitsap High School NJROTC

We sponsored an Armed Forces Festival Youth Ambassador contestant who won the top scholarship. These outstanding students serve as greeters at our Armed Forces Gala.

Thanks **Sandra Smith** for adding your "special personal touch."

**Change of Commands** embody the core of traditional military leadership development. Navy League presence at these ceremonies is fundamental to our relationship with the commands. I attended eleven; Flag Officer, Base, Ship and Submarine Change of Command Ceremonies.

**Receptions** are the best social venue for interactions with prominent command and community leaders. This year we stepped up our co-sponsorship of receptions at the "Harbor Side" with Puget Sound Naval Bases Assn. We attended several significant regional events throughout the year. Larry and Tina Salter represented us at the National Convention in Florida. Significant receptions included Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus, Navy Under-Secretary Jackal-yne Pfannenstuef, Vice Admirals Kevin McCoy and Rick Hunt and Congressman Norm Dicks.

**Armed Forces Day** weekend started with a Friday night "Chiefs Party." We introduced a new Navy League "Float" provided by SAFE BOAT Int'l with Navy and Marines "manning-the-rails." The Parade Grand Marshall, Vice Admiral Kevin McCoy also was our Gala guest of honor. Mayor Patty Lent hosted a special pre-Gala reception and the USS KENTUCKY SSBN 737 won the prized Olympic Bowl. Mark Lowe and his committee gave us a memorable "sold out" weekend.

**Memorial Day** was honored again this year on the USS TURNER JOY. Tim Katona puts his heart into this event and makes it turn out "exactly right" every year. It poured down rain but Tim seamlessly moved everyone into the crew's mess where we all huddled together to hear RDML Joey Aucoin's remarks. The rain eased up long enough for us to lay the traditional wreath over-the-side.

Our Veteran's Day event second only to Armed Forces Day in Kitsap is organized by Sandra and Earle Smith. Our council sponsors the event with unwavering support from Raytheon, Kitsap County Commissioners and the Kitsap Sun. Over 50 veteran support groups participate annually in this great and heart-warming annual event.

**A Naval Aviation "Appreciation Day"** was held at the Museum of Flight in Seattle which our council co-sponsored with the Museum by arranging for an Orion P-3 flight crew to "Fly In" from Naval Air Station, Whidbey Island to Seattle. Parking a four engine P-3 ASW aircraft in the parking lot attracted curious crowds of people who toured the plane while an equally enthusiastic audience gathered in the museum auditorium to the hear flight crew panel talk about their mission. The VP-1 "Screaming Eagles" crowd pleasing appearance opened the door to future Navy live action events at the Museum. The Centennial for Naval Aviation

will be celebrated in 2011 in Seattle as a "Tier 1" city for SeaFair.

**Civic Events** provide our council with an entertaining way to get involved with the community and local parades attract very large crowds in Kitsap County. This year our "Float" was a new 33 ft "SAFE BOAT" on a trailer, filled with Navy, Marine and Coast Guard men and women for the Armed Forces Day Parade-Bremerton, Fathom's of Fun-Port Orchard and Whaling Days in Silverdale. The crowds showed their approval with salutes, cheers and applause. We have joined the primary local chambers of commerce strengthening our presence in the business community.

I enjoyed an underway ride on the submarine USS MICHIGAN SSGN 727 from Bangor to NAVMAG Indian Island with community leaders from Pt Townsend and in May I hosted a barbeque at the Indian Island Navy Base for Seattle based Naval Sea Cadets and Sea Scouts from Pt Townsend in an "outreach" effort between the Navy Base on Indian Island to local area residents.

**THIRD FLEET ships** from San Diego provided an opportunity to get Sea Cadets on ships transiting from Naval Station Everett to Seattle the day before the SeaFair "Parade of Ships." The program that I started four years ago has grown and this year I was able to put over 430 "kids" on Navy ships including: Naval Sea Cadets, NJROTC Cadets, Sea Scouts, Boy Scouts, Puget Sound Tribal Council youth program members and Future Sailors. Naval Sea Cadets have been allowed berthing onboard the Fleet Week Ships and work with the ship's crew doing crowd control for tours and parking for Third Fleet Receptions.

**Co-sponsoring** a "Welcome the Fleet" picnic at Naval Station Everett with the Everett and Lake Washington councils is a demonstration of mutual support to everyone's benefit. This event has become significant in Third Fleets plans for the annual Fleet Week - SeaFair in Seattle.

**A Lone Sailor Scholarship Fund** was approved by the board to assist students with their education needs and hopefully to raise awareness of the unique core values that are embodied in the Navy Memorial Lone Sailor Statue in the application process.

Throughout the year I've met with numerous regional Commands and other Navy League councils to maintain personal contact which is essential to executing our mission and is the center point of my membership in the United States Navy League.

We are a flag waiving, Pledge of Allegiance membership proudly standing up for the traditions of the American Way of Life. God Bless America and all those who proudly serve.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Gary S. Gunderson*

# Adoption of the USS Bremerton



Since our Navy League Council has voted to adopt the USS Bremerton, a fast attack sub, based in Pearl Harbor, we have

been busy doing the necessary things to make that happen.

The skipper of the boat, CDR Caleb Kerr and his wife, Hilary will fly here on January 9 and leave on the 13th.

The formal adoption ceremony will be on January 11 at 5:30 pm at the Norm Dicks Conference Center on 6th Avenue in downtown Bremerton. We will sign the adoption papers and the skipper and his wife will have a chance to

meet Mayor Patty Lent, who has been so supportive of this adoption, members of the Navy League and other business

and community organizations. Hors d'ouerves will be provided. Parking is available on site or just a short ways away.

Our Council is committed to the support of the ship and crew for the long term and the means for doing so will be spelled out in the coming weeks. Support for their Christmas party is one avenue, as well as gifts for the sailors during mid deployment, gifts with the Bremerton name or logo on them, gift cards, and other ways people can create.

We will also introduce the new Council officers for 2011 at this celebration.

*See you there,  
Byron Faber*

# Submarine Group Nine Change of Command



Bangor's Deterrent Park was fully rigged for a drizzly fall day with white awnings and patio heaters when the guests arrived for the October 29, 2010 morning ceremony. The official party returned side boy salutes as they came aboard to formalize the Submarine Group Nine Change of Command just as the morning clouds parted smartly with sun breaks.

Chief of Staff, Captain Dan Prince officiated with smiles peaking through his relaxed/formal manner, setting the tone for the day. RADM Doug McAneny, presiding officer and keynote speaker was introduced by RADM Frank Caldwell, sporting his freshly tailored uniform reflecting his advancement to a

new command in Hawaii.

The Parade of the Colors was smartly executed by a blended color guard, respecting the working relationship between SUBGRU 9 and the Coast Guard and Marine Security Forces.

RADM Caldwell's energetic greetings to guests, families and friends were warm and personal. Smiles confirmed his longtime friendship with RADM McAneny and he introduced RDML Robert Hennegan as "Buffalo Bob" which got the sea stories rolling. Frank Caldwell's heartfelt pride in his family's (Kim's as well) history of military service is a side of him that we've all grown to appreciate.

Pleasant surprises are RADM



Caldwell's calling card and steady-on-course he invited the ceremonial "side boys" up to the podium and introduced each of them with as much pride in their accomplishments as if he was presenting awards at "Quarters".

Following the equally anecdotal remarks of Rear Admiral McAneny the ceremonial change of command followed the traditional sequence. Rear Admiral Robert Hennegan made it clear with a confident smile that he was ready to assume command. We're going to miss Frank and Kim but wish them well in Hawaii and extend our best "Welcome Aboard" to Bob, Tami and family.

*Submitted by  
Gary S. Gunderson*

# Heroes Welcome Honors IA's and their Families

Our Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council is honored to help contribute to this wonderful event. Navy Region Northwest and Fleet and Family Service provided a warm welcome and thank you to Individual Augmentees (deployers) and their families at a special evening event at Jackson Park on November 4.

An estimated gathering of about 250 people attended this event and listened to heart-warming vignettes of sailors' experiences. Captain Mark Olson, CO of NBK and RDML Doug Biesel, CO of Navy Region Northwest welcomed the group and also recognized the veterans present and thanked them for their service. Each Individual Augmentee and their family

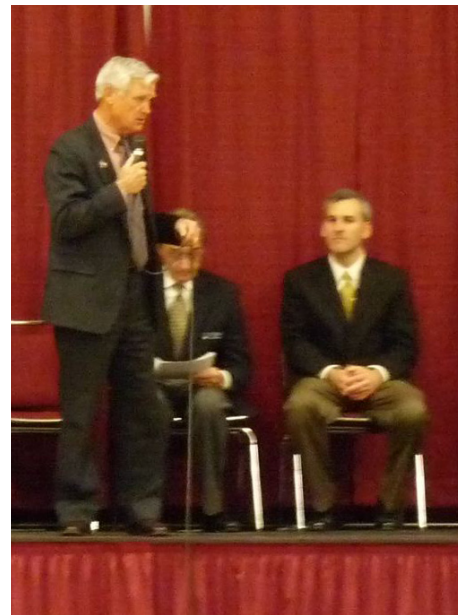
came on stage to be personally introduced and thanked. Each family was also given a handmade "Quilt of Valor."

Two canines and their handlers were also introduced and thanked for their participation overseas. Guests enjoyed great food and special displays of areas where these sailors are deployed.

This is the fourth year of this event and the program has improved each year. Great credit goes to Fleet and Family Service, the Ombudsmen and others who are responsible and do so much work behind the scenes.

Following an excellent dinner, the dance floor filled and everyone had a great time.

# Veterans Day A Huge Success



More than 1500 people participated in our annual Veterans Day program held at the Kitsap Pavilion at the Fairgrounds on November 11. Great credit goes to Sandra and Earle Smith who coordinated this special event with more than 40 organizations. The special displays of restored military vehicles, uniforms and the SAFEBOAT added to the success of the event. People were able to visit the various booths, and of course, enjoy the great food provided by Crazy Erics. Our speakers were all excellent, but a personal story happened after the program that is very special. Lt. Col. Barry Bridger, our keynote speaker spoke about his six year internment at the "Hanoi Hilton" during the Vietnam War and how the men were able to communicate through hand signals and taps on the wall. Three veterans heard that the Lt Col was going to be at the event and came to see him. All three had been prisoners of war at the same place and time. Only one of the men had ever seen our speaker. The other two had communicated with him via the taps on the wall for many months but they had never seen one another until November 11, 2010. One can only imagine what they had to share.

Our thanks to Ron Testa and First Command Financial Planning, Inc. for bringing Lt Col Bridger to this event. Thanks also to everyone who attended. We need to find more ways to say thank you to our veterans.



*Marine of the Year, Corporal Garrett R. Wyler receives the special Iwo Jima statue award for his outstanding performance with the Maritime Security Force Battalion at Bangor. The statue was presented by President Gary Gunderson at the November luncheon as we celebrated the Marine Corps' 235 birthday. In addition to the statue, Corporal Wyler received a gift certificate to a local restaurant and photo sittings provided by Hudson Photography. He also has the opportunity for a special ride in a beautiful yellow Corvette driven by our own Byron Faber. Standing with Corporal Wyler is Lt. Col. White, CO of the largest Marine Security Battalion in the United States, RDML Hennegan and Sgt. Major Smith.*

## New Council Officers for 2011

Council members at the November luncheon cast a unanimous ballot for the slate presented by the nominating committee.

**New officers:**

**President: Carolyn Dankers**

**Vice President: Tim Katona**

**Secretary: Heidi Hottinger**

**Treasurer: Linda Potter**

**Judge Advocate: George Rose**

Installation of these officers will be at our regular luncheon on January 11. Captain Mark Olson, Commanding Officer of Naval Base Kitsap will be our speaker.

We will also be welcoming the Commanding Officer of the USS Bremerton and his wife at this luncheon.

## Our Council to Host NL Pacific Northwest Regional Conference in Bremerton, February 25, 26 and 27

Mark your calendars now to be certain that you can attend this great opportunity to learn more about Navy League, to meet people from other councils, to hear some great speakers and participate in tours. Byron Faber is already working on some exciting tours for Friday, February 25. We have invited a speaker who travels the globe to share his story. Bill Waylett, a NL National staff member and great guy, will present some workshops, and we have many more surprises being planned.

Watch for more announcements about this great event. We only get to host it about every 10 years, so we want to make it special. All of our members are encouraged to participate and help make it successful.

## Council Past Presidents Help Celebrate the Marine Corps B-day



*Left to right are Charlie Tyrian, Carol Meteney, Will Lent, Vern Young, Larry Salter and Van Vlist. Each of these wonderful people have left a wonderful legacy for our council and we are so fortunate to have them available to help guide us and to be such great role models. (Photo by Karen Ebersole)*



*Former Council President, Charlie Tyrian, is recognized as the senior Marine at the recent birthday celebration for the Marines' 235th Birthday. He is using the saber for cake cutting as though he has done this before many times. Lt. Col. White seems to be enjoying the experience.*

## Kitsap Sea Cadets at Fort Warden



Our sponsored Sea Cadet Battalion spent a full day on Saturday, November 6th at Fort Warden in Port Townsend helping adult Puget Sound Coast Artillery Museum volunteers with a major restoration project. A bunker on the high point of Artillery Hill, not shown on State Park maps, was the top secret US Navy Communications Center.

This spring, I started working on a plan with the president of the museum, to rebuild a stairway system that connected the Navy Command Bunker with the barracks below. Trees and undergrowth which had grown up through years of neglect, blocking the restoration project and clear views of Admiralty Inlet, had to be cleared before the project could be started.

The Sea Cadets jumped into the tree and brush clearing work as a well disciplined crew led by their CO Rob Medal. They hand loaded sections of logs on a State Park truck to be cut later for firewood, cleared brush and hauled branches to the large power chipper. By late afternoon the route for the stair system, pathways and view corridors had been cleared to restore exciting views of the headwaters of Puget Sound that hadn't been seen for over 35 years!

A Coastal Defense Artillery Fort for over half a century, it was essential to have clear- commanding-views of the Straights of Juan De Fuca, Fort Casey on Whidbey Island and Fort Flagler on Marrowstone Island. Called the "Triangle of Fire," no enemy ship could get into Puget Sound past the firepower of these three forts.

Well Done Kitsap Sea Cadets and thanks for your community service to this popular State Park.

*Submitted by  
Gary S. Gunderson*



# Navy Band Northwest

*proudly presents*

# A Salute to the Season

## 2010 Holiday Concerts

**WHIDBEY ISLAND**  
Wed., December 1, 7 pm  
Oak Harbor High School  
Oak Harbor, WA

**EVERETT**  
Thurs., December 2, 7 pm  
Everett Performing Arts Center  
Everett, WA

**BREMERTON**  
Wed., December 8, 7 pm  
Bremerton High School  
Bremerton, WA

For more information: 360-315-3448  
Santa Claus will be making a special appearance at each performance!  
United States Marine Corps will be accepting Toys for Tots donations at each location.



**Free and Open to the Public!**

# Navy Appreciation Day at Museum of Flight



A Naval Aviation “Appreciation Day” was held at the Museum of Flight in Seattle which our council co-sponsored with the Museum. We hosted a luncheon for an Orion P-3 flight crew who flew into Seattle from Naval Air Station, Whidbey Island. A large, four engine, Anti-

Submarine Warfare patrol aircraft in the museum parking lot attracted curious crowds of people who toured the plane. An enthusiastic audience gathered in the museum auditorium to hear flight crew panel talk about their mission and enjoyed an “autograph” session with the

crewmembers. A EA-6B pilot from VAQ-139 and the VP-1 “Screaming Eagles” crowd pleasing appearance opened the door to future Navy live-action events at the Museum.

*Submitted by  
Gary S. Gunderson*

## Planning Ahead

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

Dec 1	Council Board Meeting, 5:30 pm Reid Real Estate, Silverdale
Dec 7	Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance Keyport Underwater Warfare Center Museum
Dec 9	Luncheon Registration Deadline Call CTC (360) 782-5500
Dec 14	RDML Biesel, CO Navy Region Northwest, 11 am Bangor Plaza, Trident Ball Room, Bangor
Jan 5	Council Board Meeting (see notes for Dec. 1)
Jan 6	Luncheon Registration Deadline Call CTC (360) 782-5500
Jan 11	Luncheon/Captain Mark Olson/ Installation and introduction of USS Bremerton CO and his wife
Jan 11	Formal adoption of the USS Bremerton Norm Dicks Conference Center, 5:30 pm

**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** Greg Jose  
Susan Larsen  
Linda Potter  
Leah Wattree

**Graphic Layout** 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](mailto:c.dankers@wavecable.com)



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