



NAVY LEAGUE

of the United States
"Citizens in Support of the Sea Services"



Vol. IX, No. 30

Colorado Springs Council

Fall 2015

~~~~~ HALYARDS ~~~~~

2014 #1 NLUS Small Council Newsletter

<http://www.navyleague-coloradosprings.org/>

COUNCIL CALENDAR

Oct 3 - Board Meeting, time/location TBA
Oct 10 – Navy Birthday Ball, Antlers Hilton,
Nov 7 - Board Meeting, time/location TBA
Nov 4 - Council Dinner Meeting/2015 Elections, AFA Falcon Club, 5:30 pm
Dec 5 - Board Meeting, time/location TBA
Dec 7 - Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony, time/location TBA

WHAT'S NEW

Council Dinner/Annual Members Meeting – 4 Nov
 Election of 2016 Council Board of Directors
 Location: The Club, PAFB
 Social hour: 5:30 pm. Dinner: 6:30 pm.
 Price: \$25 (includes bar and gratuity)
 Meal Options: London Broil or Cordon Bleu
 Speaker: CAPT Greg Foster, USCG/USNORTHCOM
Please RSVP by 31 October to Steve Bethke at stbethk@aol.com or (719) 359-3710.

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Three quick items: 1) Membership. As we close in on the Fall and the end of the year, I'd encourage you to get involved in our Membership drive. Most of you know our primary missions involve support of active duty Sailors and their families and education on the Sea Services of our Colorado Springs area youth. I also think every one of you knows at least one person who would benefit from being a part of what we do. Please reach out to them. 2) Our next Membership Dinner event will offer the opportunity to hear from our Colorado Springs Coast Guard contingent – save the date for 1730, 4 November at the Peterson Club. Further details will be forthcoming in an email blast. 3) Between your other on-line activities, please visit our Navy League Website. It contains a number of useful items on what we do, with simplistic ways to get involved. We'll see you on the 4th of November.
 Very Respectfully, D.A. "Roy" Rogers.

Anyone interested in Navy League, the sea services, or our speakers/topics is welcome at any of our events. You don't have to be a member of NLUS!

Navy Birthday Ball – 10 October

Make plans to attend THE event of the year – our celebration of the Navy's 240th birthday! This year's theme, in conjunction with the Navy Reserve's 100th birthday, is "Ready Then, Ready Now, Ready Always." This festive, semi-formal event will take place at the Antlers Hilton with ADM William Gortney, NORAD/USNORTHCOM as the featured speaker. The planning committee, led by our NL council, is supported by the NORTHCOM Navy Element, RMNCPOA, NOSC, local Navy Recruiters, and O'Donnell & O'Donnell event organizers. Details and reservations are available on our website: <http://www.navyleague-coloradosprings.org/>

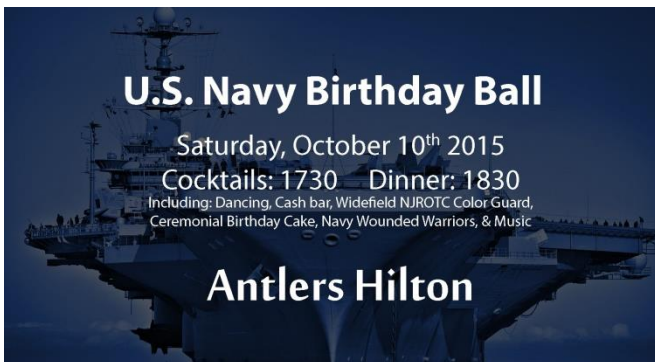
Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony – 7 December

Navy League will be sponsoring a Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony. The time and location are still being worked. Watch your email and the website for updates.

RECENT EVENTS

National NLUS Convention

Dick ably represented our council at the annual convention in Tampa, June 17 – 21. In addition to accepting the Meritorious Council award and the Mackie #1 Small Council Newsletter award on our behalf, he



attended the commissioning of the USCG Fast Response Cutter Richard Dixon (WPC-1113) in Tampa, at which Coast Guard Commandant, ADM Zukunft, officiated. The convention also served as the launching platform for the Navy League’s “America’s Strength: Investing in the Navy-Marine Corps Team” campaign (article follows).



USCG Commandant ADM Zukunft and Dick Cooper

America’s Strength Campaign

The Council’s Board of Directors adopted the Navy League’s “America’s Strength: Investing in the Navy-Marine Corps Team” campaign as part of its public outreach plan. This new 16-month grassroots effort is an initiative of NLUS at the national level. Its goals are to increase the Navy’s top line budget in 2017, thus enabling the Navy-Marine Corps team to:

- Build and maintain the 308 ships required (an increase from 289 ships today).
- Continue to provide vital combat support to U.S. forces wherever they may be engaged.
- Update and maintain existing aircraft, invest in new designs and continue with critical modernization programs.
- Restore the fleet maintenance schedule that has been badly disrupted by 13 years of war combined with severe reductions in the number of ships.
- Replenish weapons inventories to required levels.
- Invest in the next-generation capabilities necessary for the Navy to remain relevant in the future.

Thanks to support from the Board and both Sara Fuentes and Amy Wittman at NLUS headquarters, letters to *The Gazette* and *The Pueblo Chieftain* editors were composed and submitted by President Rogers on the theme of “Support of Navy/Marine Corps Funding.” To learn more about “America’s Strength,” go to <http://navyleague.org/americas-strength/>.

NOSC/RMNCPOA PICNIC

Navy Operational Support Command (NOSC) Fort Carson and the Rocky Mountain Navy Chief Petty Officers Association (RMNCPOA) co-hosted a fun-Summer 2015 *Halyards*

filled, well-attended picnic and sports day in July to celebrate the Navy Reserve’s 100th birthday. Many local dignitaries participated in the ceremonies including, RADM Kerry Metz, Congressman Doug Lamborn, Colorado Springs Mayor John Suthers, (former) State Senator Bernie Herpin, NOSC Commanding Officer Colin O’Neil, and NL Colorado Springs Council Board members, Roy Rogers and Steve Bethke. Several awards were presented to NOSC personnel. BZ, NOSC Sailors!



RADM Metz presents the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Award to UTC David Roberts.



PS2 Richardson was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal

RADM Metz introduced NOSC’s 2015 CPO Selectees (pictured below). Congratulations, CPO Selectees!



NOSC 2015 CPO Selectees (L to R), ISC (sel) Kristy Locke, ISC (sel) Stephen Herano, HMC (sel) Mario Diaz, and ISC (sel) William Kissell. Not pictured: HMC(s) Heather Stiles and ISC(s) Paul Baumgartner.

Roy and Steve presented certificates to NOSC Sailors of the Quarter HM1 Laura Peterson and HM1 Mario Diaz, JSOQs HM2 Seth Myers and LS2 Myles Stratton, and BJOQ YN3 Travis Richardson. Bravo Zulu, sailors!



Merchant Marine Presentation

At our September council dinner, council members were treated to an enlightening presentation on the history and current status of the U.S. Merchant Marine service by our own Bill Lockwood (CAPT, USNR/Merchant Marine, Ret) when the scheduled guest speaker was called out of town. Did you know that all the oilers in our battle groups are now U.S.-flagged Merchant Marine ships manned by civilian crews? And with current technology, they do it with 1/3 the number of previous active duty Navy crew numbers!



Vintage Merchant Marine recruiting posters
Summer 2015 *Halyards*

IN OTHER NEWS

Veterans Day Ceremony – 11 November

An outdoor ceremony, sponsored by the local Military Order of the Purple Heart and the Special Forces Association, will take place at 10 am at the Veterans Memorial in Memorial Park. Everyone is welcome.

PPCMOAA Holiday Dinner & Dance – 3 December

Active duty members and veterans of the uniformed services are invited to the Pikes Peak Chapter/Military Officers Association of America (PPCMOAA) holiday event at the Antlers Hilton. Entertainment will be provided by the New Century Big Band. Join the fun and get in the mood for the holidays! Tickets are \$35 until 20 November, \$40 after that date. Details and reservations are at <http://www.ppcmoaa.org/upcoming-events>.

Southern Colorado U.S. Submarine Veterans Holiday Dinner – 4 December

The members of the Southern Colorado Base, US Submarine Veterans, invite the members of our local Navy League to join us for our annual Holiday Dinner. The event will be on Friday, December 4, 2015, at the Hotel Elegante Conference & Event Center, 2886 South Circle Drive (Circle and I-25), Colorado Springs. This will be a sit down dinner and tickets are \$35. A cash bar will be available. Contact Bernie Herpin at www.bernieherpin.com for more information or to sign up.

The Elegante is very convenient as it is at I-25 and Circle. As part of our dinner package, the hotel is offering reduced room rates for those who may want to spend the night at \$60 plus tax.

USS Colorado Event at History Colorado

The public and Navy Leaguers were invited to attend a July 29 educational event hosted at the History Colorado museum which featured a unique program. The Colorado Springs and Denver Councils are members of the USS Colorado (SSN-788) Commissioning Committee which co-sponsored the event. Other program sponsors included the Colorado Newspapers in Education, Library of Congress and Metro State University. Over 80 participants enjoyed a social hour which included a temporary display of ship artifacts from previous USS Colorado ships as well as commemorative items for the new submarine.

The formal program opened with introductory remarks by J.L. Mackin, Committee Chair, and a discussion by George Lundeen, a Loveland sculptor who has been commissioned to craft the new ship's bell. "An Evening with a Historian, Scholars and Veterans" featured a remarkable panel presentation that was facilitated by Stephen Tubbs of KOA (850) Radio.

Andy Palenchar, WWII submarine veteran on the USS Finback (SS-230) shared his memories of serving in both the Navy and Army, as well as his rescue of LTJG George H. Bush. Ken Jones, a WWII veteran who served on the USS Colorado (BB-45) provided insights into action in the Pacific and being present in Tokyo Bay during the signing of the Terms of Surrender with Japan. Historian Kieth Schrum, Senior Curator of Archives, History Colorado, discussed the challenges and rewards of preserving the people's history.

Candice Green, M.Ed., described the development of curricula that bring the story of the USS Colorado, past, present, and future, together with STEM instructional standards for Colorado's students. This was a memorable evening for everyone present. For more information on supporting the USS Colorado, go to <http://usscoloradocommittee.org/>.



USS Colorado bow hull section en route from Newport News via NY East River to Electric Boat shipyard in Groton (Photo courtesy of usscoloradocommittee.org/)



USS Colorado stern hull section arrived at Groton from Electric Boat's Quonset Point facility earlier this year (Photo courtesy of usscoloradocommittee.org/)

Support Colorado's Submarine!

The USS Colorado (SSN-788) Commissioning Committee raises funds for Commissioning Week social events, supports and maintains a connection with the crew for the life of the boat, and sponsors crew visits to Colorado. More info at <http://usscoloradocommittee.org/>

Tolling of the Boats Ceremony

Navy Leaguers turned out to help perpetuate the memory of sailors who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. The annual "Tolling of the Boats Ceremony" was hosted by the Southern Colorado Base of the U.S Submarine Veterans Inc. and WWII Veterans on August 22, 2015, at Memorial Park in Colorado Springs. Colors were presented by the Widefield High School NJROTC, a Council-sponsored unit. Brian Martinez, SCB Commander, opened the ceremonies and led the laying of the wreath at the Submariner Memorial.

Senator Bernie Herpin presented a history of the lost boats. Then all submarine qualified attendees were invited to participate by placing a flag on the submarine model while the bell was rung to honor 52 submarines and their crews that were sunk in WWII, as well as four boats that were lost between 1949 and to 1968.

Thanks to Deb Zeller for articles in this newsletter!

Denver Council Events

- Friday, 23 Nov (tentative) - Denver Council Dinner Meeting at the Hilton Garden Inn. Guest speaker will be David Soucie, FAA accident investigator and CNN flight correspondent.
- Sunday, 13 Dec - Special recognition of 4 PCU Colorado sailors as "Broncos Country Heroes" at Sports Authority Field during the Broncos v Raiders game.

Reservations and details at navy@blacktie-colorado.com

2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS		
Elected Officers		
President	Roy Rogers	roykimrogers@gmail.com
VP Programs	Steve Bethke	stbethk@aol.com
VP Membership	Bill Lockwood	bklockwood@earthlink.net
VP Finance/Treasurer	Art Cyphers	cypherspace65@msn.com
VP Legislative Affairs	Bill Lockwood	bklockwood@earthlink.net
VP Youth Programs	Art Cyphers	cypherspace65@msn.com
VP Public Relations	Deborah Zeller	deborahzeller@yahoo.com
Secretary	Bunny Blaha	bunny_blaha@msn.com
Immed Past President	Dick Cooper	rcoper101@gmail.com
Appointed Officials		
Webmaster	Wayne Wolfe	wayne.wolfe@gmail.com
Chaplain	Art Cyphers	cypherspace65@msn.com
Judge Advocate	vacant	
Halyards Editor	Bunny Blaha	bunny_blaha@msn.com

