



# NAVY LEAGUE

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



United States Navy ~ United States Marine Corps ~ United States Coast Guard ~ United States Merchant Marine  
 Vol. IX, No. 28 **Colorado Springs Council** Spring 2015

## ~~~~~ HALYARDS ~~~~~

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

### CALENDAR

Apr 3 - Board Meeting, 1600, Old Chicago
May 1 - Board Meeting, 1600, Old Chicago
May 6 - Council Dinner Meeting, USAFA Falcon Club
Jun 5 - Board Meeting, 1600, Old Chicago

### PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Spring is right around the corner, although most of us know we can still get one foot snowfalls in April. In referring to spring in the Mountain region, perhaps Mark Twain said it best: "In the Spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours." He might have been talking about Colorado Springs.

As detailed in other sections of this edition of the Halyards, your Navy League Council has been busy this Winter. We have supported each of the uniformed Naval outfits we "sponsor" in the form of formal recognition for Sailors of the Year and monetary contributions which benefit the Sailor's MWR funds. We've also contributed financially to the four NJROTC units we sponsor. Our commitment to enhance the morale of local uniformed personnel will continue as we head into the summer with the 100 year anniversary of the Navy Reserves, and celebrations commemorating that event at NOSC Fort Carson in July. Watch for more details.

Our Membership campaign is producing results, and it looks like we're going to top the 100 mark for the first time in a while. Part of this initiative is to enhance our bi-monthly Membership Dinners with high quality Speakers. An example of that was the presentation by CAPT (ret) **Mike McGrath** on 12 March. Mike was a POW in the infamous "Hanoi Hilton" from 1967 to 1973, and his book ("Six Years a POW") was the foundation for his talk, which captured much of the emotion all the POWs went through. The book is available on Amazon. We intend to have Mike back on a regular basis as a Navy League Member.

One of our Membership Dinner concepts is to provide a forum to socialize with local business professionals. These folks are interested in you and

what you have done in and around the Navy. They are also involved in our efforts to fund the annual Navy Birthday Ball (planned for 10 October), which we will assist NORTHCOM in putting on this year. Our next Membership Meeting will highlight NORTHCOM and what they do. Make it a point to attend at the USAFA Club on 6 May.

I'll close these remarks by thanking everyone for their support of Navy League. As our Regional President is fond of saying, "the Colorado Springs Council is small but powerful," and I know that comes from you. Please get back to me with any ideas you may have to enhance our activities, and I hope to see you at one of our upcoming events.

Very Respectfully,  
 D. A. "Roy" Rogers



Former Vietnam POW, CAPT (Ret) Mike McGrath (standing), addresses March dinner attendees

### RECENT EVENTS

#### **2015 Board Installation**

The 2015 Board of Directors was installed at the January Council dinner meeting. Elected officers are: **Roy Rogers** – President, **Steve Bethke** – VP for Programs, **Art Cyphers** – VP for Finance/Treasurer and VP for Youth Programs, **Bill Lockwood** – VP for Membership and VP for Legislative Affairs, **Bunny Blaha** –Secretary, and **Dick Cooper** – Immediate Past President. **Sue Cyphers** administered the Oath of Office.

Roy then appointed **Wayne Wolfe** as Webmaster, Art as Council Chaplain, and Bunny as Editor of the Halyards.



Bunny, Roy, Steve, Bill, and Art at installation meeting

### Treasurer's 2014 Report

Art reported that as of December 31, 2014, the Council had a net worth of \$12,672.

### Council Dues Discontinued

At the January meeting, the Board recommended an Amendment 2 to the Council's Bylaws in order to discontinue Council dues effective immediately. The Council members voted to approve.

### Programs

With funds raised by the 2014 Navy Birthday Celebration, the Board made the following donations to support local sea service organizations and personnel:

- Navy Recruiters, Division 4 and 5, \$200 (for MWR);
- Rocky Mountain Navy Chief Petty Officers Association, \$200 (for family and community support);
- NORAD/USS NORTHCOM Navy Element Chief's Mess, \$300 (for recognition awards for enlisted personnel);
- Navy Operational Support Center Fort Carson, \$300 (for MWR).

The Board also adopted a "blue marble" acrylic, self-standing award for Council Sailor of the Year (SOY) award presentations.



Examples of new NLCSO "blue marble" SOY awards  
Spring 2015 *Halyards*

### Sailors of the Year

Roy, Art and Bunny joined **RDML Dwight Shepherd** in presenting an NLCSO award to the USS NORTHCOM Navy Element 2014 Sailor of the Year, **YN1 (SW) Charles Harvin**, in January. Congratulations, Petty Officer Harvin!

In February Dick and Wayne presented an NLCSO award to **SH2 (SW) Joshua Benz**, Navy Recruiting District Denver - Division 4 2014 Sailor of the Year.

Bunny and Steve presented an NLCSO award to **EO2 (SCW) Devon Patton**, NRD Denver - Division 5 2014 Sailor of the Year. BZ to our outstanding local Navy Recruiters!



Bunny, EO2 (SCW) Patton and Steve

At Navy Operational Support Center Fort Carson's March drill weekend, Art and Steve presented NLCSO awards to **YN1 Andra Adame** and **HM1 Mario Diaz**, NOSC 2014 Sailors of the Year, **LS2 Melissa Blanchard**, NOSC 2014 Junior Sailor of the Year; and **HM3 Daniel Gibbs**, NOSC 2014 Blue Jacket of the Year. Well done, NOSC Sailors!



Art, Steve and YN1 Adame



Art, Steve and HM3 Gibbs



## Membership

The Council currently has 92 members. With the termination of council dues effective this year, all NLUS members in the Colorado Springs area are now considered to be Council members. New members include **Randy and Deborah Zeller, Richard Anderson, and Lawrence Orcutt**. Welcome aboard, Shipmates!

## New Honorary Member

In January, the Council also voted in favor of naming local resident **Don Stratton** an Honorary Member of the Council. Don is one of 6 living survivors of the attack on the USS Arizona (BB-39) at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Congratulations and welcome aboard, Don!

## Youth Programs

Last year the Board decided to donate \$250 for operating expenses to each of the NJROTC units we support: Doherty, Mesa Ridge, Widefield and Montrose. Doherty, Mesa Ridge and Widefield held festive Cadet Balls in February and March.



Art, Sue and NJROTC Cadets at Doherty Cadet Ball

## 2014 Annual Report

Small, but powerful, that's us! Some of our many Council activities in 2014 included:

- 33 awards (including Sailor of the Year, Sailor of the Quarter, and Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medals,
- donations to 4 sea service organizations and 4 NJROTC units,
- led the organization of the Navy Birthday Celebration,
- participated in Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies at Memorial Park,
- provided Seapower subscriptions to 4 NJROTC units and 3 sea service organizations,
- assisted in the Pearl Harbor Day commemoration ceremony, and
- participated on the USS Colorado (SSN-788) Commissioning Committee.

## WHAT'S NEW

### **Council Dinner Meeting – Wednesday, May 6**

Location: USAFA Falcon Club, 3120 Academy Dr.  
Social hour: 5:30 pm (free drinks!). Dinner: 6:30 pm.  
Cost: Approx. \$25. 2 meal options will be available.  
Dress: Casual (no jeans).

Our Speaker will be **RDML Dwight Shepherd** from NORTHCOM, who will talk about NORTHCOM's current mission and relevant real world threats. RDML Shepherd is a 1983 graduate of the University of Cincinnati who went on to become a P-3 NFO. His career includes numerous operational command and staff assignments including Air Reconnaissance Squadron Three, Strategic Communications Wing One and Carrier Group Five N6.

**Please RSVP to Steve Bethke at [stbethk@aol.com](mailto:stbethk@aol.com) or (719) 359-3710.**

**Anyone interested in Navy League and the sea services is welcome at any of our events!**

## IN OTHER NEWS

### **Two Bells and All's Well**

How often do you find mint-condition relics of the Civil War, World War I, and World War II that trace the spectacular progress in 157 years of Naval warships AND have a connection to the state of Colorado – then unite them to be honored in one Colorado venue? First, a brief history.

There have been three U.S. Navy ships named USS Colorado, soon to be joined by a fourth. The **first USS Colorado** was a 44-gun, three-masted, 264-foot-long, 3480-ton, steam-powered, single-screw frigate commissioned in 1858, which enforced Civil War Federal blockades against Confederate trade in the Gulf of Mexico, off Cuba and the Carolinas, in English waters, and in the Mediterranean Sea. In the 1870's she joined the Asiatic Station as the flagship for Rear Admiral J. Rogers' squadron, and later was the North Atlantic Squadron flagship. She was de-commissioned in 1876.

The second was the 504-foot-long, 13,900-ton, Pennsylvania-class armored cruiser **USS Colorado (ACR-7)**, commissioned in 1905. Her builder, William Cramp & Sons Co., had also poured the bell for the 1858 USS Colorado. The bell from the first ship was recovered and reissued for the *second* USS Colorado (ACR-7). Assignments for this proud ship included the Great White Fleet (partial world circumnavigation) in 1908, Pacific duty 1906-1908, and Atlantic convoy duty in WW1. She was renamed the USS Pueblo (CA-7) in 1916 to make the name Colorado available for another ship and decommissioned in 1927.



USS Colorado (ACR-7)

The third **USS Colorado (BB-45)** was a 625-foot-long, 32,600-ton battleship (first of its class) commissioned in 1923 at Camden, New Jersey. In the years prior to 1941, she sailed Atlantic, Mediterranean, and Pacific waters, joining the 1937 search for aviatrix Amelia Earhart. Though home-ported in Pearl Harbor, the ship was in overhaul at Puget Sound Navy Yard near Seattle on December 7, 1941 – saving her eight 16-inch guns for use in the Pacific Theater during World War II. She reportedly fired more 16-inch shells than any other ship during the war. BB-45 was de-commissioned in January, 1947 and scrapped in 1959.



USS Colorado (BB-45)

The fourth **USS Colorado (SSN-788)** is a fast-attack nuclear submarine, currently under construction, to be commissioned in late 2016.

Here's what rings the bell: the bell and helm from the third USS Colorado (BB-45) are displayed in the University of Colorado (CU-Boulder) University Memorial Center's Veterans' Lounge and were proclaimed in 1947 by Governor Lee Knous as a memorial to "those who served in these great wars." These artifacts were obtained with the assistance of the USS Colorado Alumni Association.

The bell that was shared by the 1858 and 1905 USS Colorado ships has been located in archival storage of the U.S. Navy History and Heritage Command, Washington Navy Yard, D.C.



USS Colorado ship's bell and helm at UC-Boulder (L)  
 USS Colorado ship's bell in storage at Navy Yard (R)

CU-Boulder has requested a long-term loan and transfer of the 1858 bell from the warehouse in Washington to exhibit it alongside the 1923 USS Colorado (BB-45) bell in the University Memorial Center. CU-Boulder hopes to be able to open the combined display on Veterans Day, 2015.

(Contributed by Richard (Dick) Cooper, with appreciation to CAPT Julio Gutierrez, USN (Ret.) and LCDR Cecily Harsh de Gutierrez, USNR (Ret) for research and editorial assistance, and to Norris Hermsemeyer of the USS Colorado (BB-45) Alumni Association for research and production assistance.)

### USS Colorado Keel-laying

The USS Colorado (SSN-788) keel-laying ceremony took place at the General Dynamics Electric Boat Quonset Point facility in North Kingstown, R.I. on March 7, 2015. The ship's sponsor is **Annie Mabus**, daughter of **Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus**.



With Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus, center, looking on Welder John Alves shows the finished initials of ship sponsor Annie Mabus, far right, as she gets a hug from a sister during the keel laying ceremony for the Colorado.

2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS		
Elected Officers (not a complete list)		
President	Roy Rogers	<a href="mailto:roykimrogers@gmail.com">roykimrogers@gmail.com</a>
VP Programs	Steve Bethke	<a href="mailto:stbethk@aol.com">stbethk@aol.com</a>
VP Membership	Bill Lockwood	<a href="mailto:bklockwood@earthlink.net">bklockwood@earthlink.net</a>
VP Finance/Treasurer	Art Cyphers	<a href="mailto:cypherspace65@msn.com">cypherspace65@msn.com</a>
Secretary	Bunny Blaha	<a href="mailto:bunny_blaha@msn.com">bunny_blaha@msn.com</a>