



NAVY LEAGUE

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



Vol. X, No. 32

Colorado Springs Council

Spring 2016

~~~~~ HALYARDS ~~~~~

2014 #1 NLUS Small Council Newsletter

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

COUNCIL CALENDAR
Apr 2 - Board Meeting, 0900, Mimi's, N. Academy
Apr 6- Council Dinner Meeting, 1730, PAFB Club
May 7- Board Meeting, 0900, Mimi's N. Academy
May 30 – Memorial Day ceremony, Veterans Memorial in Memorial Park, 1000
Jun 1 – Council Dinner Meeting, 1730, Falcon Club
Jun 4 - Board Meeting, 0900, Mimi's, N. Academy

about it. Please get on the NLUS website referenced above, and if you pull down the "Legislative Affairs" tab, you can fill out/modify a form letter and contact any of our elected representatives. Trust me, as an ex-DC Staffer, they read these things, and we CAN make a difference.

See you in April.

CAPT (Ret) Roy Rogers

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope this finds everyone ready for Spring – of course, around here that usually means some of our biggest snowfalls! Below are some important points to reiterate as you get into this quarter's Halyards.

First, our next Membership Dinner is scheduled for Wednesday, 6 April at 1730 at the Peterson Club. Our Guest Speaker is Wayne Victor, a Colorado Springs Award winning journalist. \$25 includes dinner, tip and adult beverages.

Second, NLUS has initiated an "Electronic Membership" which includes all the normal privileges, but the "Sea Power" magazine is delivered electronically instead of via hard copy snail mail. The cost is only \$25 a year (won't even buy you a gin and tonic in Paris), so sign yourself or a friend up today. Click on: <http://www.navyleague.org>.

Finally, during a recent visit I had with Naval Aviation Leadership, some of us were privy to some aviation readiness information. It should come as no surprise that our USN/USMC Readiness indicators are the lowest they've been since the late 70s. The average flight time out there in the fleet is less than 11 hours/pilot/month. While the airplanes are safer/more capable than ever, we are beginning to see the safety and retention numbers slip. I never thought I'd be addressing a "Jimmy Carter Navy" again, but apparently that's where we are. I bring this up because, as a member of the Navy League, you can do something

WHAT'S NEW

Council Dinner Meeting – April 6

Location: The Club, PAFB

Social hour: 5:30 pm. Dinner: 6:30 pm.

Price: \$25

Meal Options: London Broil, Chicken Cordon Bleu

Speaker: Wayne Victor; Topic: Naval Sea Cadets

We will recognize the NORAD/USNORTHCOM 2015 Sailor of the Year, PO1 Kyle Wilson.

Please **RSVP** by **April 1** to **Steve Bethke** at stbethk@aol.com or (719) 359-3710.

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!

2016 Board Installed



2016 Board (L to R) Roy Rogers, Steve Bethke, Bill Lockwood, Art Cyphers, Bunny Blaha, Deb Zeller

Your recently re-elected fearless leaders were installed at the February council dinner. A list of names and positions is at the end of this newsletter. Roy presented a briefing on current Marine Corps operations and strength to the dinner attendees.

Honorary Member Proposed

At the April Council dinner, the Board will ask the membership to vote on making Daniel T. Griffin an Honorary Member of the Council. Griffin, of Colorado Springs, was the first Coloradan and possibly the first American killed in WWII on Dec 7, 1941, prior to the attacks on Pearl Harbor. He and his PBY crew were shot down while trying to take off from Kaneohe Bay after sighting approaching Japanese aircraft. Griffin was strafed and killed as he swam to shore.

RECENT EVENTS

Awards Presented to NOSC Sailors

In January, Steve and Bunny presented awards during a Navy Operational Support Center Fort Carson drill weekend. HM1 Laura Peterson and LS2 Myles Stratton received Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals. HM1 Peterson and EN1 James Jones were presented SOY awards. MN2 Adam Erenzen received the JSOY and MN3 Donald Niko, the BJOY. Bravo Zulu, Sailors!



Bunny Blaha, MN3 Niko, LS2 Stratton, HM1 Peterson, Steve Bethke

2015 Annual Report

Council activities in 2015 included:

- 17 awards (including Sailor of the Year, Junior SOY, Blue Jacket of the Year, Sailor of the Quarter, JSOQ, BJOQ, and Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medals,
- Donations totaling \$1900 to 3 sea service organizations and 4 NJROTC units,
- Led the organization of the 2015 Navy Birthday Celebration, attended by over 200 guests,
- Participated in Memorial Day ceremony at Memorial Park,

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- Provided *Seapower* subscriptions to 4 NJROTC units and 2 sea service organizations,
- Assisted in the Pearl Harbor Day commemoration ceremony, and
- Supported the USS Colorado (SSN-788) Commissioning Committee.

Membership

The Council currently has 82 members according to NLUS. We are looking for a volunteer to relieve Bill as VP for Membership. If you are interested, please contact him to find out what the job entails.

Treasurer's Report

The Council's net worth as of February was \$12,826.

IN OTHER NEWS

This Will Ring Your Bell by Dick Cooper

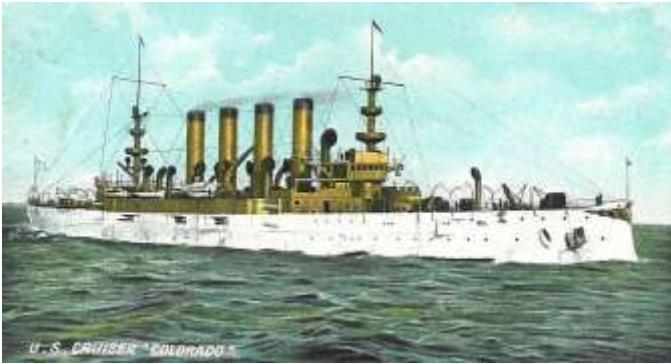
Students of naval history, we now have a focal point to celebrate the history of the first three USS Colorados as we prepare for the fourth namesake of our great state.

A brief review: The **first USS Colorado** was a Federal 44-gun, three-masted, 3480-ton, **steam frigate**, commissioned in 1858 to enforce Federal blockades against Confederate trade in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean and the Carolinas, English waters, and the Mediterranean Sea. She later served as the flagship of the European and the Asiatic Squadrons.



USS Colorado (1858 frigate)

The second was the 504-foot-long, 13,900-ton Pennsylvania-class, armored cruiser, **USS Colorado (ACR-7)**, commissioned in January, 1905, at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Her builder, William Cramp & Sons Co., also built the 1858 USS Colorado. The bell from the first ship was recovered and reissued for the second USS Colorado (ACR-7). The cruiser USS Colorado (ACR-7) saw duty in World War 1 and participated in the 1908 Great White Fleet cruise.



USS Colorado (ACR-7) 1913 postcard

The third **USS Colorado (BB-45)** was a 625-foot-long, 32,600-ton battleship (first of its class) commissioned in August, 1923, in New Jersey. She saw significant action in the Pacific, and reportedly fired more 16-inch shells than any other battleship. Thanks to the effort of the USS Colorado (BB-45) Association, that noble battleship's bell and helm were placed on display in the Lounge of the University of Colorado Memorial Center in Boulder. The Memorial Center was declared by the Colorado Governor in 1947 to be "a memorial to those who served in these great wars."



USS Colorado (BB-45) 16-inch guns

Let's bring this together: Through the stalwart efforts of LCDR (Ret) Cecily Harsh de Gutierrez and CAPT (Ret) Julio Gutierrez, of the Colorado Springs Navy League Council, with assistance from Dick Cooper and Carlos Garcia of the CU Boulder Memorial Center, the bell that was shared between **USS Colorado 1 and 2** was located and retrieved from warehouse storage in the Navy History and Heritage Center, Washington, D.C. It Spring 2016 *Halyards*

has been refurbished, transported to Boulder, and placed to sit proudly alongside the bell from USS Colorado (BB-45). Recognition is given to Norris Hermsmeyer of the USS Colorado (BB-45) Association for personally funding the transportation of the bell from storage in Virginia to its new home in Boulder.

We anxiously await the **fourth USS Colorado (SSN 788)**, the 15th Virginia Class submarine, currently under construction at Electric Boat shipyard in Groton, CT. It is expected to be commissioned in early 2017.



Dan Puleio, John Mahaffey, JJ Mackin, Dick Cooper with bell from 1st and 2nd USS Colorado

USS Colorado (SSN-788) Reception - April 8

Join your friends at the Balistreri Vineyards in Denver at 6 pm, Friday, April 8, to hear NLUS VP Jay Donnelly, VADM (Ret), former Commander Submarine Forces, speak. Meet the Executive Officer and several crewmembers of the USS Colorado, who will be visiting for the occasion! [Click here](#) for sign up information.



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Elected Officers		
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