

788) Commissioning Committee and Candice has been extensively involved in arranging multiple community visits and media events for COLORADO Crew members. Also, the Board has already mapped out various veteran activities for 2018 where the Navy League will participate and is discussing ways to expand our involvement with the local Sea Service communities. What a team supporting the sea service communities in our area!

I particularly look forward to supporting our four sponsored Navy JROTC organizations at Dougherty High School, Widefield High School, Mesa Ridge High School, and Montrose High School. I also look forward to continuing the support of the Naval Operational Support Center Fort Carson, the Navy Element at NORAD and U.S. Northern Command, and the local Navy recruiters. Your local council is a small but mighty organization!

Tom Gregory, CAPT, USN (Ret)

WHAT'S NEW

Council Dinner Meeting – January 17

Location: Falcon Club, USAFA

Social hour: 5:00 pm. Dinner: 6:30 pm.

Meal Options: London Broil or Roasted Chicken: \$30, Pasta Primavera \$25

Speaker: Col Robert Salasko, Senior USMC Officer, NORAD/USNORTHCOM Command Center

Please RSVP by **January 11** to Bunny Blaha at bunny_blaha@msn.com or 719-233-1008

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!

Council Dinner Meeting – March 21

Location: Falcon Club

Social hour: 5:00 pm. Dinner: 6:30 pm.

Meal Options: London Broil, Sherry Chicken Fettucine

Speakers: NJROTC Senior Naval Science Instructors

Please RSVP by **March 15** to Bunny Blaha at bunny_blaha@msn.com or 719-233-1008

2018 Board of Directors

The Board members for 2018 will be:

President: Tom Gregory

VP for Programs: Bunny Blaha

VP for Membership: Wayne Wolfe

VP for Finance/Treasurer: Art Cyphers

VP for Legislative Affairs: George Sugars

VP for Youth: Art Cyphers

VP for Public Relations: Candice Green

Secretary: Bunny Blaha

Immediate Past President: Roy Rogers

Winter 2018 *Halyards*

The new Board of Directors will be installed at our January 17 meeting, and our new president, Tom, will announce his appointments for Halyards Editor, Webmaster, Chaplain and Judge Advocate.

A volunteer is still desired for VP for Programs as Bunny will be continuing in two other positions. To find out what the job entails, contact Bunny Blaha. Thank you to all those who have served the council so well and to you who have stepped up to serve this year!

New Board Member

Tom Gregory is a life member of the Navy League who served for over twenty-seven years on active duty while in the Navy. He had command of four ships including the USS CHOSIN (CG 65), the USS JOUETT (CG 29), the USS JOHN YOUNG (DD 973), and the USS REID (FFG 30).

His Navy shore tours included among others the Navy OPNAV Staff, The JOINT Staff, and the Naval Reactors Staff in the Washington D.C. area. While on the OPNAV Staff he was initially the Director of Theater Air Warfare which included the budget and requirements for AEGIS and other combat systems for Surface Ships. As the follow on OPNAV Deputy for Surface Ships he was responsible for the life cycle requirements and budgeting for over 100 ships from new construction through decommissioning. Additionally, the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) and Admiral Zumwalt (DD 1000) programs were initiated while he was on the OPNAV staff.

Following the Navy, CAPT (ret) Gregory worked for Lockheed Martin for eight years which included, among other things, Ballistic Missile Defense. Following Lockheed Martin he commenced volunteer work for the Naval Academy Admissions Office as a Blue and Gold Officer (BGO) and is now responsible for the rural outreach efforts in Colorado and Wyoming. In November he was elected to be the President of the Colorado Springs Council of the Navy League of the United States for 2018.



CAPT Tom Gregory, USN (Ret)

Other board members' biographies may be viewed in previous editions of the Halyards and on our website.

New Members

Welcome aboard to new members, Matthew Grunenwald, John Hathaway and Carol O'Donnell!

Everyone else, don't forget to renew your NLUS membership at <http://navyleague.org/>. An e-membership is only \$25/year!

RECENT COUNCIL EVENTS

2017 Navy Birthday Ball

In celebrating the 242nd birthday of the Navy, Council was honored to have the Mayor of Colorado Springs, John Suthers, speak about the local and national importance of the Sea Services and the Navy. He also talked about his family's personal connections to the Navy.

RADM Richard Snyder, Director, Strategy, Policy and Plans, NORAD and USNORTHCOM (J5) and LCDR Asa Kim, Commanding Officer, Navy Operational Support Center Fort Carson, joined the celebration. Four crewmembers from the PCU Colorado (SSN-788) were special guests at the gala Rocky Mountain Region event that was attended by almost 200 party goers at the Hotel Eleganté. The Mesa Ridge High School NJROTC Color Guard did a superb job of presenting the colors! A great time was had by all!

Special thanks go to our sponsors who supported the 2017 U.S. Navy Birthday Ball! They are The Boeing Company, Northrop Grumman, Phil Long Dealerships, Ent Credit Union, Charles Schwab Corporation, Balistreri Vineyards, and Lockheed Martin.



Winter 2018 Halyards

November Council Meeting

At the November 8 Council meeting, guest speaker LCDR Asa Kim, Commanding Officer, Navy Operational Support Center "Port Carson," gave an informative presentation on the mission of the Navy Reserve, its strategic depth, and the scope of its

operational support to the Navy, Marine Corps, and Joint forces. NOSC provides impressive support to our nation's readiness. Thank you, LCDR Kim!



LCDR Kim briefs council members on NOSC

Randy presented a certificate to Bill Lockwood expressing appreciation and respect for over forty years of devoted leadership and service to the Navy League of the United States and to the Colorado Springs Council. Congratulations, "Well done," and thank you, Bill!



Randy presents appreciation certificate to Bill and Kay

Wrapping up the Annual Membership Meeting, Council members elected the 2018 Board Officers, the Council Bylaws were revised, and the 2018 budget was approved. We thank all who participated in making the business part of the evening go so smoothly. At the end of the evening Tom Gregory, President-elect, spoke about the Council and its dedicated team of volunteers. He looks forward to working with the members in the new year.

Thank you to all who donated new toys to Toys for Tots at the annual meeting! Council donated a wagon full of joy for children this holiday season thanks to member generosity! Russ Miller, Junior Past Commandant and Quarter Master, Marine Corps League Pikes Peak Detachment 29, spoke about the history of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program, noting that over 97% of donations go to the mission of providing toys, books, and other gifts to less fortunate children. We appreciated Russ taking the time to join us!

Winter 2018 *Halyards*



Russ Miller (center) collected Toys for Tots

Veterans Day Events

On November 10, several Council members attended the Doherty High School NJROTC Veterans Day Ceremony honoring the many veterans in attendance. Almost the entire student body has family members who have served in the military. The event included a reverent flag folding ceremony and a drill team presentation.

Council Board members and family members also attended the annual Veterans Day Remembrance Event at Veterans Memorial Park in Colorado Springs on November 11. Co-hosted by the Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 423 and Special Forces Association Chapter 4-24, the observance included laying of wreaths at many of the monuments.



President-elect Tom Gregory presented the Navy League's wreath at the Navy League anchor memorial



Bunny recruited volunteer Vets to raise the NL flags

NJROTC Activities

In November, Doherty Navy JROTC donated 650 lbs of canned goods and 10 turkeys to the Springs Rescue Mission. Every year, the JROTC cadets support the Springs Rescue Mission and its efforts to help the disadvantaged.



Doherty NJROTC cadets with food donations

County Proclaimed Pearl Harbor Day

The Board of County Commissioners of El Paso County read the *Proclamation Recognizing Pearl Harbor Day* at its meeting on December 5 in Colorado Springs. The proclamation recognized the surprise assault on Pearl Harbor by the Empire of Japan on December 7, 1941.

The attack caused more than 2,350 deaths and 1,178 wounded among the U.S. fleet and military forces in Hawaii that day, and launched the United States into World War II. The proclamation urged all citizens to set aside time on December 7th to “reflect on the bitter lessons of that day and to honor those who bravely gave their last full measure of devotion 76 years ago.”

Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration

The annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Observance was held on Thursday, December 7, at the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum. It began with the presentation of colors by the NJROTC Cadet Color Guard from Widefield High School.

The commemorative ceremony honored local Pearl Harbor survivors, including James Downing, Donald Stratton, Louis Brockly, and George Blake. Veterans from WWII were also honored.

Mark Waller, President Pro Tempore, Board of County Commissioners for El Paso County, read the Proclamation Recognizing Pearl Harbor Day. Mr. Jeff Greene, Chief of Staff to the Mayor of Colorado Springs, made brief remarks.

Guest speaker Dr. Lance Blyth, Command Historian, NORAD and U.S. Northern Command, discussed the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor from a historical perspective. The Joint NORAD and U.S. Northern

Command Color Guard conducted a ceremonial wreath laying in honor of those from all military services who paid the ultimate sacrifice that day.

PCU COLORADO (SSN-788) NEWS

In October, visiting PCU Colorado (SSN 788) crew members, LTJG Anthony Matus, MMA2 Tristan Newton, ITS2 Nicholas Sylvia, and ETN2 John Warren were hosted for three full days of Colorado Springs activities during their week-long visit to the boat's namesake state. They made numerous STEM presentations to students at local elementary, middle, and high schools, including NJROTC cadets. The discussions encouraged the study of science, technology, engineering and mathematics and related these topics to nuclear engineering in the Navy.

The crewmen also participated in a Navy Birthday reception at the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum, numerous radio and television interviews about the Navy, and the presentation of the ship's crest to Colorado Springs City Council. Their visit culminated in being honored guests at the U.S. Navy Birthday Ball.



PCU Colorado crew members (clockwise from upper L) LTJG Matus, ETN2 Warren, MMA2 Newton, ITS2 Sylvia) presented their ship's crest to the City of Colorado Springs

The boat was officially delivered to the Navy in September. Then, on November 3rd, CDR Reed Koepf relieved CDR Ken Franklin as Commanding Officer of the PCU Colorado (SSN 788) in the Navy's traditional ceremony at the Naval Submarine Base, Groton, CT. The Navy has officially announced that commissioning will be on March 17, 2018, in Groton. For details, go to <http://usscoloradocommittee.org/>



Welling Clark, USS Colorado crew members and Chef Franco Pisani, owner of Paravicini's Italian Restaurant



PCUColorado crew members with Mayor Suthers and Colorado Springs City Council

During a visit to Doherty High School, MMA2 Tristan Newton presented the first U.S. flag flown over PCU Colorado (SSN 788), during initial sea trials, to Doherty NJROTC leadership for display in the Hall of Honor. Petty Officer Newton personally hoisted and lowered this flag. Committee member Dick Cooper also presented, on behalf of the BB-45 Alumni Association, a 40MM AA cartridge, fired aboard the USS Colorado BB-45. It will also be displayed in the Doherty NJROTC Hall of Honor.



MMA2 presenting PCU Colorado Flag to Doherty NJROTC

NRD Denver Change of Command

The Commanding Officer of Navy Recruiting District Denver, CDR Renee Tanaka, USN, transferred leadership responsibilities to her relief, Commander

Winter 2018 *Halyards*

Christopher Webster, USN, during a change of command ceremony on December 1st. Council 2018 President elect Tom Gregory represented the Council at the ceremony at the Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum in Denver. The Council wishes CDR Tanaka fair winds and following seas in her new assignment as the Navigator of the Aircraft Carrier USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70) and extends a hearty welcome aboard to CDR Webster.

Bridge Named for Pearl Harbor Survivor

Hearty congratulations to Honorary Council Member LT Jim Downing upon having the new Interstate 25 bridge spanning Cimarron Street/Hwy 24 named in his honor! The bridge was dedicated on Friday, October 20th, at America the Beautiful Park. Both chambers of the 71st Colorado General Assembly unanimously passed the bill designating the Cimarron Avenue bridge as the "Lieutenant James 'Jim' Downing Bridge." It is most fitting that this important structure has been named after our local hero, a 104-year-old Navy veteran, the 2nd oldest known living Pearl Harbor survivor, and the Guinness world record holder for oldest male author!

Navy League College Scholarships

The Navy League Foundation is the Navy League's premier program to support the children of men and women of the Sea Services through scholarships. Eligible high school seniors can apply for awards ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000. The Navy League scholarship application process is entirely online. Applications for the 2018 awarding cycle opened on October 15, 2017, and will close on March 1, 2018. Application information is available at <http://navyleague.org/scholarship/application.html>

Many thanks to dear friend Deb Zeller for contributing many articles to this and previous issues! I'll miss you! Editor

2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS		
Elected Officers		
President	Tom Gregory	gregory.navyleaguecos@gmail.com
VP Programs	Bunny Blaha	bunny_blah@msn.com
VP Membership	Wayne Wolfe	
VP Finance/Treasurer	Art Cyphers	cypherspace65@msn.com
VP Legislative Affairs	George Sugars	gsugars@comcast.net
VP Youth Programs	Art Cyphers	cypherspace65@msn.com
VP Public Relations	Candice Green	coloradogree3@gmail.com
Secretary	Bunny Blaha	bunny_blah@msn.com
Immed Past President	Roy Rogers	roykimrogers@gmail.com
Appointed Officials (Anticipated)		
Webmaster	Wayne Wolfe	wayne.wolfe@gmail.com
<i>Halyards</i> Editor	Bunny Blaha	bunny_blah@msn.com
Chaplain	Candice Green	coloradogree3@gmail.com
Judge Advocate	Tom Menza	tfmenza@hotmail.com