



NAVY LEAGUE

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



Vol. X, No. 334

Colorado Springs Council

Fall 2016

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2014 #1 and 2015 #2 NLUS Small Council Newsletter

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

COUNCIL CALENDAR
Sep 24 - Board Meeting, 0900, Mimi's, N. Academy
Oct 8 - Board Meeting, 0900, Mimi's, N. Academy
Nov 2 - Council Dinner Meeting, 1730, PAFB
Nov 5 - Board Meeting, 0900, Mimi's N. Academy
Dec 3 - Board Meeting, 0900, Mimi's, N. Academy

Council Dinner & Annual Meeting – November 2

Location: PAFB Club
Social hour: 5:30 pm. Dinner: 6:30 pm.
Price: \$25
Meal Options: London Broil, Chicken Cordon Bleu
Speaker: TBD
Please RSVP by **October 28** to Steve Bethke at stbethk@aol.com or (719) 359-3710.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope this finds everyone ready for fall. Below are a couple quick points to emphasize as you get into this quarter's Halyards.

First, our website is constantly being updated with items of interest. Please click on: <http://www.navyleague-coloradosprings.org>. A couple of "near term" opportunities to get together are the USNA-USFA Football Game on 1 October and the Navy Ball on 15 October.

Second, as I've mentioned before, NLUS has initiated an "Electronic Membership" which includes all the normal privileges, but the "Sea Power" magazine is delivered electronically instead of via snail mail. The cost is only \$25 a year, so sign yourself or a friend up today. Click on: <http://www.navyleague.org>.

Third, our next Membership Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 2 November. Watch the website and your emails for more details.

CAPT (ret) Roy Rogers

WHAT'S NEW

Navy Birthday Ball – October 15

Location: Hotel Elegante, 2886 S. Circle Dr.
Speaker: RADM Richard Snyder, Director, Strategy, Policy and Plans, NORAD-USNORTHCOM J5.
1730 Cocktail hour, 1830 Program and Dinner, Ceremonial Birthday Cake, Dancing, \$1000+ in door prizes, Tickets start at \$10 (E1-E4), Reservations: www.navyleague-coloradosprings.org

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!

Board of Directors Elections – Nov 2

The Nominating Committee (Dick, Deborah, Bunny) have developed the following slate of candidates for election to the 2017 Board of Directors at our November council Annual Meeting and dinner:

Elected Officials

President: Randy Zeller
VP for Programs: Bill Hyland
VP for Legislative Affairs: George Sugars
VP for Public Relations: Cecilia Hyland
VP for Finance/Treasurer: Art Cyphers
VP for Youth: Art Cyphers
VP for Membership: Bill Lockwood
Secretary: Bunny Blaha

Immediate Past President: Roy Rogers

Appointed Officials

Halyards Editor: Bunny Blaha
Webmaster: Wayne Wolfe
Chaplain: Deborah Zeller
Judge Advocate: Tom Menza

Thank you to all those who have served the council so well. Nominations will be accepted for Board positions up until the next council meeting. If you are interested, contact the Nominations Committee Chair, Dick Cooper. Contact info is at the end of this newsletter.

HAPPY 241ST BIRTHDAY, NAVY!!!

New Members

Welcome aboard to new council members: Tom Gregory, Jacob Miller, Laura Miles, and Donald Griffin (son of Daniel Griffin).

A Bell For McCandless

Earlier this year, the board learned that Bruce McCandless Veterans Community Living Center in Florence, Colorado, will achieve its 40th anniversary in October and, as the center is named after Bruce McCandless, a Navy Medal of Honor recipient, the center planned to raise funds to purchase a Navy bell or anchor to mark the occasion. Coincidentally, the quarterdeck bell from the decommissioned USS Arthur W. Radford (DD-968) had been turned over to Roy in 2014, and the board agreed to donate it to McCandless! A plaque, relating the bell's provenance, is being made for the mounting plate. Engraving is donated by Excalibur's Edge, owned by Russ Miller, Commandant of the Marine Corps League Pikes Peak Detachment, and woodworking by Woodcraft of Colorado Springs; 50+ year-old teak is donated for the plaque by Bunny. The bell will be taken to McCandless in October and formally presented from our council to McCandless during their anniversary celebration on November 11. If you are interested in attending either presentation, contact Bunny for details.

The Rest of the Story

Coincidentally, Bunny's ex-husband was Combat Systems Officer of the USS Arthur W. Radford and their second son was christened on board, with the overturned larger ship's bell holding the holy water! And that son is now a Naval Aircrewman/Avionics Technician/Aviation Electronic Warfare Systems Operator First Class!

Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration – December 7

Watch for details in future emails!

RECENT COUNCIL EVENTS

Local Pearl Harbor Survivor Departs

Jerald Douglas "Doug" Huggins, who was inducted as an Honorary Member of our council in 2014 for "Heroic Service to the United States of America at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on 7 December 1941," passed away on August 21. Doug was a 19-year old Seaman First Class on board the USS St. Louis (CL-49) when Pearl Harbor was attacked. He separated from the Navy in 1946 as an Electrician's Mate First Class. Doug was interred at Fort Logan National Cemetery on August 30 with full military honors. Read more at

<http://www.mycoloradogazette.com/profiles/blogs/local-pearl-harbor-survivor-ships-out-for-the-last-time>

IN OTHER NEWS

Navy-Air Force Football Game – October 1

Seats with the Midshipmen or in the adjacent section L23/L24 are still available at \$60 per seat (military rate) from AO1 Nathan Chavez, Navy Recruiting Station Pueblo. Cell: 719-306-4848, Office: 719-542-0438, Fax: 719-542-0440, nathan.chavez@navy.mil
Deadline to purchase is Friday, 23 September.

Tailgate Party! – October 1

The USNA Parents Club is sponsoring a pre-game Tailgate party, 1100 until game time in the USAFA Falcon Stadium parking lot, Lot 2. \$35/person donation (\$25: 13–20 yrs, and \$15: 12 and younger) includes BBQ lunch, soft drinks, two beers (for adults), music, entertainment, and USNA speakers. Go to <http://www.usna.com/page.aspx?pid=903> for details and the link to the Mail-in Registration Information and ticket order form. Order deadline is September 26.



Homeless Veterans Stand Down - October 18

Location: Colorado Springs Auditorium, 221 E. Kiowa. 0900-1400. See www.epchvc.org to learn more, donate or volunteer.

USS Colorado Sailors and Executive Officer Visit Colorado Springs

On Thursday, September 14, the Executive Officer and two USS Colorado (SSN 788) crew members visited the Colorado Springs region as part of a four-day visit to Colorado. The USS Colorado is the 15th of the Virginia-class submarines, and is currently scheduled to be delivered to the fleet in mid-2017. The crew's morning visits were focused on presentations at three local schools. Navy Junior ROTC cadets and engineering students at Doherty (85), Mesa Ridge (61), and Widefield (105) High Schools heard LCDR Stephen Col, STS1(SS) Michael McKenna, and MMA2(SS) Eric Robinson speak about the importance of studying science, technology, engineering, and mathematics as the students prepare for their future careers. Approximately 251 pupils participated in the interactive presentations. Executive Officer Col emphasized the importance of

honesty, integrity, and service to the nation and the community. The learners gained an understanding of this newest submarine's mission as well as the proud naval heritage of the three prior ships named for Colorado.

During the remaining time in Colorado Springs, the USS Colorado personnel were hosted at NORAD-USNORTHCOM, where they had the opportunity to educate U.S. and Canadian active duty and civilian personnel about the ship's basic operations and capabilities. Historical photographs taken by a crewman from the World War II Battleship, the USS Colorado (BB 45), as well as an original 1940 *Bluejacket's Manual*, a book that is issued to all sailors even today, were presented to the ship. The Executive Officer toured the command center and the crew visited the 9-11 Memorial at Peterson Air Force Base. Their last stop of the day was at Cogitic Corporation. This is a locally owned company that specializes in precision manufacturing of metal products for submarines.

The USS Colorado crew visit to the region was sponsored by the USS Colorado Commissioning Committee and supported by the Colorado Springs Council of the Navy League of the United States. The Navy League has three missions: to inform Congress and the American public on the importance of strong sea services; to enhance the morale of active duty and reserve personnel in the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and US-Flag Merchant Marine; and to support youth through educational programs, such as the Navy Junior ROTC, that expose young people to the values of the sea services. To support Colorado's namesake submarine, her dedicated officers, crew, and families, go to <http://usscoloradocommittee.org>.



STS1(SS) McKenna, MMA2(SS) Robinson, and LCDR Col with Widefield High School NJROTC Instructor MAJ Davis, USMC (Ret.) and Assistant Principal Houtchens *Photo Courtesy of Samantha Briggs*

Gala and Auction for the USS Colorado a Huge Success

The USS Colorado (SSN 788) Commissioning Committee hosted an incredible Gala and Auction on September 17th at the Charles Schwab Campus in Lone Tree. The festive event raised funds to advance public awareness of the fourth Navy vessel to be named Colorado, to support its officers and crew and events

surrounding the ship's commissioning, and to foster the relationship between the ship and the State of Colorado for the next 33 years. The gala evening consisted of a cocktail hour, silent auction bidding, and lively conversation among its 200 attendees.

The evening's engaging emcee was Steffan Tubbs, radio talk-show host at KOA/850-AM. In opening remarks by the Committee Chairman, "JJ" Mackin, CAPT, USN (Ret.), the numerous sponsors, donors and volunteer supporters of the event were recognized and thanked. Then he read a proclamation by Mayor Michael Hancock of Denver naming September 17 as USS Colorado (SSN 788) Day. After dinner, Executive Officer Col spoke briefly about the ship and then surprised STS1(SS) McKenna, and MMA2(SS) Robinson with the presentation of individual awards for their outstanding service. Award winning historian Walter Borneman followed as the keynote speaker. He reflected upon some lessons from naval history and their relevance to projecting sea power today, particularly in the South China Sea. Next, the silent bidding was closed and auctioneer Scott Alexander conducted the live auction. It featured some one-of-a-kind and collectible treasures as well as unique travel and recreation adventures. Photos from the event are posted at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/USS-Colorado-SSN-788/391543070879559> and <https://www.flickr.com/photos/131150115@N07/albums/72157672880769702>



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Judge Advocate	vacant	