



NAVY LEAGUE

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



Vol. XI, No. 37

Colorado Springs Council

Summer 2017

~~~~~ HALYARDS ~~~~~

2014 #1 and 2015 #2 NLUS Small Council Newsletter

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

COUNCIL CALENDAR
Jul 8 - Board Meeting, 0900, Mimi's, N. Academy
Jul 12 - Council Dinner Meeting, 1730, Falcon Club
Aug 5 - Board Meeting, 0900, Mimi's, N. Academy
Sep 9 - Board Meeting, 0900, Mimi's N. Academy
Sep 13 - Council Dinner Meeting, 1730, Falcon Club

FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are all saddened by the fate that has befallen the USS Fitzgerald (DDG 62). Many Navy families are dealing with the worst news you can ever expect to hear. We have all been sending our thoughts and prayers to the crew of Fitzgerald and their families.

Vice Admiral Joseph Aucoin, Commander 7th Fleet said "I will not speculate on how long these investigations will last." The Fitzgerald, and other ships of Destroyer Squadron 15, based outside Tokyo, fall under VADM Aucoin's authority. As pointed out by National Public Radio, the Fitzgerald is one of the most modern and technologically advanced warships afloat. But, the ship has a human crew. "There was no moon over the waters south of Tokyo Bay ... and the channel there is frequently crowded with ships."

In 2012 the USS Porter was cruising in the Strait of Hormuz when it collided with an oil tanker. The investigation later found that sailors attempted to keep track of all the traffic around them, pretty much overloading the team, and they lost focus on their own immediate course ahead. As a result they were surprised when the tanker Otowasan appeared ahead of them, at close range, and collided with Porter at the same place the Fitzgerald was hit. Again, NPR reporting says that preliminary looks at the collision seems to indicate the Crystal, the ship that struck the Fitzgerald, was actually overtaking the Destroyer when they collided. That would explain a lot of things if it turns out to be true.

As members of the Navy's extended family, and keepers of our traditions, take time to remember the young men and women on the USS Fitzgerald and the sadness they Summer 2016 Halyards

are experiencing. In particular we must not forget the children, husbands, and wives of the lost Fitzgerald crew members. I'll keep you advised of what action the United States Navy League will take regarding this tragedy.

Over 100 of the ship's Sailors lost all their uniforms and personal belongings in the berths that were destroyed in the collision. If you would like to help restore these items, you could make a donation to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) at

<https://donate.nmcrcs.org/page/contribute/donate2015>. At the option, "This Contribution Is," there is a drop-down menu; select "In Honor of" and enter FITZGERALD. You could also send cards of support and/or sympathy (for the loss of their shipmates) to:

USS Fitzgerald (DDG 62)

Any USS Fitzgerald Sailor, CPO, or Officer

C/O Command Master Chief

UNIT 100173 Box 1, FPO AP 96665

Sincerely,

Randel L. Zeller, CAPT, USN (Ret)

WHAT'S NEW

Council Dinner Meeting – July 12

Location: Falcon Club, USAFA

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

Sunrise Room, Falcon Club, 3120 Academy Dr, USAFA

Meal Options: Pasta Primavera w/Veggies \$25, Roasted

Chicken Breast \$30, London Broil \$30

Speaker: Joe Bonnet, NORAD J7 Director for Training and Exercises

Please **RSVP by July 9** to Bunny Blaha at bunny_blaha@msn.com or 471-8527.

Please indicate if attendee is a non-DoD ID card holder so arrangements can be made for escort onto USAFA.

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!

New Member

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

US Navy Birthday Ball 2017

Save the evening of October 14 for the Rocky Mountain Region's annual U.S. Navy Birthday Ball. Details TBA!

RECENT COUNCIL EVENTS

NJROTC Awards

Council board members presented Navy League Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medals in April and May to outstanding cadets at the four NJROTC units in southern Colorado that we support. Well done, Cadets!



Art, Cadet Ensign Matthias Williams, Doherty NJROTC



Candice, Cadet Meika Morris, Mesa Ridge NJROTC



George, Cadet Petty Officer First Class Nadia Barrett, Cadet Chief Petty Officer Chris Resendiz, Montrose NJROTC

Summer 2016 *Halyards*



George, Cadet Ensign Conor Peck, Widefield NJROTC

Texas Had a Navy?

Our council was informed and entertained at the May dinner with an interesting and amusing presentation on the ups and downs of the Republic of Texas Navy, delivered by NORAD/USNORTHCOM Historian, Dr. Lance Blyth.



Dr. Lance Blyth

Navy Operational Support Center SOYs Recognized

In May, Bunny attended a NOSC Fort Carson awards and promotion ceremony and presented Navy League Colorado Springs Council 2016 awards to Sailor of the Year, YN1 Spencer Quinlan; Junior Sailor of the Year, LS2 Miles Stratton; and Blue Jacket of the Year, YN3 Delany Stang. BZ to these outstanding sailors!



(L to R) YN1Quinlan, YN3Stang, Bunny, LS2 Stratton

IN OTHER NEWS

Memorial Day

Council members attended the Memorial Day ceremony at the Veterans Memorial in Memorial Park. Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) Fort Carson representative, UT1 Albert Nelson, placed the Navy wreath at the Navy memorial.



UT1 Nelson

NOSC Change of Command

You're invited to attend the Navy Operational Support Center Fort Carson Change of Command ceremony when LCDR Colin O'Neil will be relieved by LCDR Asa Kim at 1400 on Sunday, July 16, at "The Hub," 1532 Specker Ave at Prussman Blvd, on Fort Carson. LCDR O'Neil has been a strong supporter of our council, regularly attending council dinners, briefing our council members on NOSC's mission, and lending NOSC support to Navy Birthday Ball planning and other activities. Please RSVP to Chief Epperson at Christine.epperson@navy.mil.

Governor Signs USS Colorado Support Bill

State support for the Commissioning of the USS Colorado was solidified on Monday, June 5, 2017, when Governor John Hickenlooper signed Senate Bill 17 183. The bill appropriates \$100,000 to the Department of Military and Veteran Affairs, which in turn delegates grants to support the commissioning, promote public awareness, and support the crew of the USS Colorado. Bill co-sponsors Senator Bob Gardner and Representative Pete Lee were joined by 13 members of the USS Colorado Commissioning Committee including Chairman John Mackin, Vice Chairman Dick Cooper, Senator Bernie Herpin, and Navy League-COS V.P. Candice Green for the signing. Also in attendance were Representative Janet Buckner and 6 sailors from Navy Recruiting District Denver - one of whom, MMN1 Scott Gold, has orders to report to the USS Colorado.

We were also honored that Sandie Bourassa, daughter of recently deceased WWII submarine veteran Andy Palenchar, was in attendance. Andy participated in many of the USS Colorado events until his passing earlier this year. Most notably, Andy was the submariner Summer 2016 *Halyards*

who rescued 2TJG George H. W. Bush from the Pacific in WWII after he was shot down.



Governor Hickenlooper (C) and Navy representatives

Lone Tree Freedom Race Fund-Raiser

The inaugural Lone Tree Freedom Race will be presented by Charles Schwab, on Sunday, July 9, from 8-11am in support of the USS Colorado Commissioning Committee, one of the non-profits sharing proceeds from this event. There will be a 3-mile race/walk, a live band, local retailers, USS Colorado merchandise, and more!

Net proceeds from the event will be donated to:

- [Mile High Behavioral Healthcare/Comitis Crisis Center](#)
- [Veteran's Passport to Hope](#)
- [USS Colorado \(SSN-788\) Commissioning Committee.](#)

Visit www.freedomrace.org to sign up for the race using promo code RIDGE for 20% off the registration cost. Register for the event to receive more information and select your shirt size.

NLUS 2017 Election Results

At the national Navy League Convention in Milwaukee, the Board of Directors elected the following National and Regional Officers: National President Alan Kaplan (Former Treasurer); Steve Kelley, Rocky Mountain Region President and National Director; Dick Cooper, Area President North and National Director; and Dan Puleio, National Director

2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS		
Elected Officers		
President	Randy Zeller	rzeller.navyleaguecos@gmail.com
VP Programs	vacant	
VP Membership	Bill Lockwood	bklockwood@earthlink.net
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 Rel	Candice Green	cgreen.navyleaguecos@gmail.com
Secretary	Bunny Blaha	bunny_blaha@msn.com
Immed Past President	Roy Rogers	roykimrogers@gmail.com
Appointed Officials		
Webmaster	Wayne Wolfe	wayne.wolfe@gmail.com
<i>Halyards</i> Editor	Bunny Blaha	bunny_blaha@msn.com
Chaplain	Deb Zeller	dzeller.navyleaguecos@gmail.com
Judge Advocate	Tom Menza	tfmenza@hotmail.com