



# NAVY LEAGUE

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



Vol. XI, No. 35

Colorado Springs Council

Winter 2017

## ~::~::~~ HALYARDS ~::~::~~

2014 #1 and 2015 #2 NLUS Small Council Newsletter

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

COUNCIL CALENDAR
Jan 7 - Board Meeting, 0900, Mimi's, N. Academy
Jan 11 - Council Dinner Meeting, 1730, Falcon Club
Feb 4 - Board Meeting, 0900, Mimi's, N. Academy
Mar 4 - Board Meeting, 0900, Mimi's N. Academy
Mar 8 - Council Dinner Meeting, 1730, Falcon Club

### PRESIDENTS' MESSAGES

#### OUTGOING

I hope this finds everyone surviving the holidays. Below are a couple quick points to emphasize as you get into this Quarter's Halyards.

First, our Membership Meeting is scheduled at the USAFA Falcon Club on Wed, 11 January. Open Bar at 1730. Dinner at 1830. Cost about \$30 each. The Agenda will include a presentation by our Navy SPACECOM reps, led by CAPT Jim Thompson. Second, we will install our 2017 Elected Officers and Appointed Officials led by Randy Zeller, who will be taking the reins from yours truly at that time.

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>.

Finally, as I write this message in late December, it is my wish that you all enjoy a safe, prosperous and healthy 2017. Our Colorado Springs Council has been labeled "small, but powerful", which I think reflects the extensive laundry list of activities we're into: Four NJROTC Units, Active Duty Support, Annual Navy Ball Sponsorship, Veterans and Pearl Harbor Day Support and now an Annual Colorado Springs Academic Scholarship (details early 2017). I encourage you to become more active in all of our activities, and thanks for your support these last two years.

Roy Rogers, CAPT, USN (Ret)

#### INCOMING

Teddy Roosevelt encouraged the founding of the Navy League of the United States in 1902 to support the U.S. Sea Services and educate the public on the fact that ours is indeed a maritime nation. Having worked with the Congress, I appreciate the power of citizen groups like the Navy League that have helped the Sea Services over the years. Just look at the investment the people of the United States have made in their Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine. It is also inspiring to see the pride and enthusiasm our NJROTC Cadets demonstrate every time they are called upon.

I look forward to serving the Colorado Springs Navy League over the next year. I also look forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas on how our council can continue the excellent job of promoting the three Navy League missions: a) to enhance the morale of active-duty personnel and their families, b) to inform the Congress and the American public on the importance of strong sea services; and c) to support youth through programs such as the Navy Junior ROTC and introduce young people to the values of our Sea Services.

Last, and most importantly, I'd like to thank Roy, Steve, Art, Bill, Bunny, Wayne, Dick, and Debbie for the absolutely outstanding work they have done this past year. "You all ROCK" as John Adams and Captain John Barry might have said "in the day" as John accepted the first captain commission in the Continental Navy on March 14, 1776. I think it took place at MiMi's Cafe in Boston. Happy New Year!

Randy Zeller, CAPT, USN (Ret)



## WHAT'S NEW

### **Council Dinner Meeting – January 11**

Location: Falcon Club, USAFA

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

Meal Options: Beef or Chicken - \$30, Vegetarian - \$25

Speaker: CAPT Jim Thompson, Senior Navy Rep at SPACECOM/Schriever AFB

Please RSVP by **January 8** to Steve Bethke at [stbethk@aol.com](mailto:stbethk@aol.com) or 359-3710 or Bunny Blaha at [bunny\\_blaha@msn.com](mailto:bunny_blaha@msn.com) or 471-8527

**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 8**

Location: Falcon Club

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

Meal Options: TBA

Speaker: TBA

Please RSVP by **March 5** to Bunny Blaha at [bunny\\_blaha@msn.com](mailto:bunny_blaha@msn.com) or 471-8527

### **2017 Board of Directors**

The Board members for 2017 will be:

President: Randy Zeller

VP for Legislative Affairs: George Sugars

VP for Public Relations: Candice Green

VP for Finance/Treasurer: Art Cyphers

VP for Youth: Art Cyphers

VP for Membership: Bill Lockwood

Secretary: Bunny Blaha

Immediate Past President: Roy Rogers

### **A volunteer is still needed for VP for Programs.**

To find out what the job entails, contact Steve Bethke.

The new Board of Directors will be installed at our January 11 meeting, and our new president, Randy, will announce his appointments for Halyards Editor, Webmaster, Chaplain and Judge Advocate.

Thank you to all those who have served the council so well and to you who have stepped up to serve this year!

### **New Members**

Welcome aboard to new members, Suzanne Brannon, Rod Kauber, Tajiri Goodwin and Candice Green! Everyone else, don't forget to renew your NLUS membership at <http://navyleague.org/>. An e-membership is only \$25/year! And, remember, we no longer have council dues. Your NLUS membership makes you a council member. That's a "Two-for!" What a deal!

## RECENT COUNCIL EVENTS

### **2016 Navy Birthday Ball**

RADM Richard Snyder, Director, Strategy, Policy and Plans, NORAD-USNORTHCOM J5, spoke about the status of the U.S. Navy to a crowd of almost 200 at the annual Ball on October 15 at Hotel Eleganté. Widefield High School NJROTC provided Cadets for the color guard. As always, a good time was had by all!





**November Council Meeting**

At our November dinner meeting, in addition to the 2017 Board of Directors election, a revision to the council Bylaws was approved which incorporated previous amendments (eliminating council dues and moving the Judge Advocate position from elected Board Officer to Appointed Official) and included a provision to allow Fall 2016 *Halyards*

the council to take the lead in organizing the local Navy Birthday Ball. The speaker topic was NJROTC, presented by CAPT Greg Thomas, USN (Ret), the Naval Science Instructor at the Doherty High School NJROTC unit. He was accompanied by two outstanding cadets, Jozighus Thomas and Joshua Ketchum



CAPT Greg Thomas and Cadets Jozighus Thomas and Joshua Ketchum

**IN OTHER NEWS**

**A Bell For McCandless**

In the Fall 2016 *Halyards*, we told you that our council was donating the quarterdeck bell from the decommissioned USS Arthur W. Radford (DD-968) to the Bruce McCandless Veterans Community Living Center in Florence, Colorado. The bell was formally presented during the center’s 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Veterans Day celebration on November 11. The new engraved teak plaque includes an engraved likeness of the ship and the bell’s provenance which reads:

“USS Arthur W. Radford (DD-968)  
 1977 - 2003  
 Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Group, Atlantic Fleet  
 2003 – 2004  
 North American Aerospace Defense Command  
 2004 – 2006  
 Senior Chief Petty Officer Tim Murphy  
 2006-2014  
 Navy League Colorado Springs Council  
 2014 - 2016  
 Bruce McCandless Veterans Community Living Center  
 11 November 2016”

Bunny presented the bell and was accompanied at the event by council members, Arthur and Sue Cyphers and George and Peggy Sugars. The center mounted the bell at the entrance – or “quarterdeck” - of the center, which is named after Navy Medal of Honor recipient, Bruce McCandless.



Peggy and George Sugars, Art and Sue Cyphers, Bunny Blaha with USS Arthur W Radford (DD-968) ship's bell



County Commissioners and Navy League members at El Paso County Pearl Harbor Day proclamation event



USS Arthur W. Radford (DD-968) quarterdeck bell



City Council Members and Navy League members with PO1 Daniel Griffin recognition certificate

### **Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration – December 7**

During the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day community observance at the Pioneer Museum, organized by O'Donnell & O'Donnell event organizers, special recognition was given to AMM1/Navy Pilot Daniel Griffin, believed to be the first American casualty (confirmed by the Navy) on 7 December 1941. He was a graduate of Colorado Springs High School (now Palmer High School). Navy League Colorado Springs Council President, CAPT Dave "Roy" Rogers, gave the presentation, also recognizing local Pearl Harbor survivors, Jim Downing, Colorado Springs; Don Stratton, Colorado Springs; Lou Brockly, Woodland Park; and George Blake, Salida. Mayor John Suthers was the Guest Speaker and related his personal family history to Pearl Harbor and WWII Colorado Springs. Wreaths were posted for each branch of the military services and the Coast Guard. Doherty High School NJROTC cadets provided honors in the special ceremony. The event was attended by about 200 citizens.

### **Respects Paid to PO1 Daniel Griffin**

Following his father's lead, Donald Griffin served his country in the U.S. Navy and retired as a Chief Petty

### **County and City Make Pearl Harbor Proclamations**

On November 22, El Paso County Commissioners made a Proclamation recognizing December 7, 2016, as Pearl Harbor Day in the county. At the same meeting, City of Colorado Springs Council Member Helen Collins read a similar document, recognizing Petty Officer First Class Daniel Griffin, of Colorado Springs, as the first American killed on December 7, 1941. He was shot down and strafed by Japanese aircraft after taking off from Kaneohe Bay in his PBY aircraft. Council Members, Helen Collins and Andrew Pico, served in the U.S. Navy.

Officer in 1977. Don Griffin, of San Diego, and his family honors his father by visiting what is now Marine Corps Base Hawaii at Kaneohe Bay each December 7<sup>th</sup>. Dick and Gail Cooper were in Hawaii for the 2016 Pearl Harbor ceremony and joined Don and Donelle Griffin in paying their respects to Daniel Griffin.



Don Griffin, son of PO1 Daniel Griffin, wife Donelle, Dick and Gail Cooper

### Cadets Honor Lost Veterans

Cadet Nathaniel Miller of the Doherty High School Navy JROTC unit requested that his unit support Mission 22, an organization dedicated to making the public aware that approximately 22 veterans commit suicide daily. The cadets held a small early morning event on September 30 to honor Cadet Miller's request.



Doherty NJROTC cadets push for veterans

### USS Colorado (SSN-778) News

Last September, visiting USS Colorado (SSN-778) crew members, CSSN Carswell and CSSN Oworu were hosted at the USNA Parents Club of Colorado Tailgate party and the Navy vs. AF football game on October 1<sup>st</sup>, after visits with several famous chefs in Denver and Colorado Springs.

Crew members LCDR Stephen Col, STS1(SS) Michael McKenna, and MMA2(SS) Eric Robinson discussed the importance of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics with 251 Navy Junior ROTC cadets and engineering students at Doherty, Mesa Ridge, and Widefield High Schools.

Fall 2016 *Halyards*



LCDR Col addresses NJROTC and engineering students

On December 3rd, USS Colorado was christened by Ship's Sponsor, Annie Mabus, in ceremonies at General Dynamics Electric Boat Shipyard in Groton, Connecticut. For more information on the USS Colorado, check out these links:

<http://usscoloradocommittee.org/newsletters/>

[https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=1387554434611746&id=391543070879559](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1387554434611746&id=391543070879559)

<http://www.defense.gov/News/News-Releases/News-Release-View/Article/1018080/navy-to-christen-submarine-colorado>

### Duplicate Ship's Bell at CU Boulder

Feeling that the submarine bell should have a Colorado connection, the CU Boulder Alumni Association turned to noted international sculptor, George Lundeen, (<http://www.lundeensculpture.com>) of Loveland for assistance. After numerous interactions with Navy officers, guidelines and regulations, two ship's bells for the USS Colorado were cast by Bronze Services of Loveland. Form 3D Foundry made the mold for the casting. The bell, with clapper (striker), weighs eighteen pounds. All assembly pieces are 80% copper and 20% tin.

On November 11, 2016, one of the two matching bells was presented to the University Memorial Center, at the time of the rededication of the UMC Veteran's Lounge. It joins the existing bells from the previous ships which carried the name, USS Colorado.

The companion bell will be presented to the crew of the USS Colorado at the time of the ship's commissioning, now estimated to be in late summer of 2017.

### New Board Members

#### President – CAPT Randel “Randy” Zeller, USN (Ret)

Randy moved to Colorado three years ago and joined the Navy League shortly after relocating. He is a 1975 U.S. Naval Academy graduate, with a BS in marine engineering. After being commissioned, he qualified as a nuclear submarine officer in 1979 and served in subs for over 24 years. Command tours included the *USS Gato*

(SSN 615) and the Trident Refit Facility in Kings Bay, GA. He earned Master's degrees from the Naval War College and Salve Regina College, RI. Other naval tours included serving in Navy legislative affairs and in the Office of the Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff as Legislative Director. Upon retiring from active duty in 2007, he worked in defense contracting, entered the civil service, and worked for Senator Hagel as well as the US Department of Homeland Security. Currently, he works at NORAD and US NORTHCOM. Randy is a former Boy Scout Troop Scoutmaster and has made contributions to many organizations in a leadership capacity. He is a member of the American Legion Post 209, Military Order of the Carabao, MOAA Pikes Peak Chapter, Naval Submarine League, USNA Alumni Association, US Submarine Veterans of Southern Colorado, and USS Colorado Commissioning Committee.



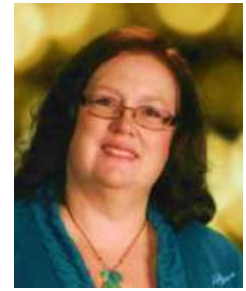
Randy Zeller

**VP of Legislative Affairs – CAPT George Sugars, USN (Ret)**

George Sugars grew up in Kansas and began his Navy career by enlisting in the Navy in March 1966. In 1972, he joined the Navy Reserve program and in 1979 he received a direct commission as an Intelligence Officer, serving in various Navy Reserve Intelligence units throughout the U.S., and retiring as a Navy Captain in February 2007. George received a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Kansas State University and a Master in Public Administration from Wichita State University. In his civilian career, George is a Civil Engineer (licensed Professional Engineer in Colorado and Kansas and licensed Professional Land Surveyor in Kansas). He served as County Engineer / Public Works Director/County Surveyor in two Counties in Kansas spanning twenty-two years prior to moving to Colorado. He served as the Engineering Manager for El Paso County for seven plus years, and served as County Manager for Fremont County in Canon City for seven years before retiring on March 31, 2016. George & Peggy live in Colorado Springs, and they have two daughters and four grandchildren.



George Sugars



Candice Green

**VP for Public Relations – Candice Green**

Candice Green's love for country and respect for the military runs deep. Her father served with honor in the US Navy during World War II, and her step-father was a US Naval Academy graduate who served as a Navy pilot. Currently, her step-son, is serving in the US Air Force, and her mother is a lifetime member of the Navy League.

Professionally, Candice teaches Math and Science at Pikes Peak Prep Charter School in Colorado Springs. Throughout her 23-year tenure in education, she has earned numerous honors including Teacher of the Year, Master Teacher Fellowship, and Crossroads on Education Fellowship. Additionally, she has held numerous leadership positions including serving as a Board Member of the Navy League's Denver Council, a Member of the USS Colorado Commissioning Committee, and as Immediate Past President of the Jefferson Council of the International Reading Association. Other positions have included President of the Arts and Leers Honor Society, Board Member of Pasco County Chapter of the American Cancer Society, and active roles in numerous scholarly organizations. Most recently, Candice was tapped to become one of 50 educators in the state of Colorado to participate in the America Achieves Colorado Educator Voice Fellowship and is one of the Top 100 Educators to be followed on social media. Candice has authored and published several educational and literary articles, and is currently working on two fictional novels.

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

2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS		
Elected Officers		
President	Randy Zeller	<a href="mailto:rzeller.navyleaguecos@gmail.com">rzeller.navyleaguecos@gmail.com</a>
VP Programs	vacant	
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>
VP Legislative Affairs	George Sugars	<a href="mailto:gsugars@comcast.net">gsugars@comcast.net</a>
VP Youth Programs	Art Cyphers	<a href="mailto:cypherspace65@msn.com">cypherspace65@msn.com</a>
VP Public Relations	Candice Green	<a href="mailto:coloradogree3@gmail.com">coloradogree3@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Bunny Blaha	<a href="mailto:bunny_blaha@msn.com">bunny_blaha@msn.com</a>
Immed Past President	Roy Rogers	<a href="mailto:roykimrogers@gmail.com">roykimrogers@gmail.com</a>