



Port of Pittsburgh

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United States, Pittsburgh Council
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Edited by Katherine Kersten

Website: navyleaguepittsburgh.org

Letter from the President

Greetings fellow Navy League members!

The excitement of summer (and unfortunately, rain) is upon us. The apex of summer is our celebration of the 4th of July commemorating the Continental Congress' adoption of the **Declaration of Independence** from Great Britain. Our nation as we know it today was born—its founding principles, thus far lived, were now set to pen.

Your Navy was created about 10 months earlier on October 13, 1775 with the decision to arm sailing vessels to intercept transports carrying munitions and stores to the British Army in the New World. More than 50 armed vessels were eventually outfitted, taking nearly 200 British vessels as prizes and shifting the priorities of the largest Navy in the world from supporting troops ashore to protecting convoys and trade routes to America.

With such a long and rich Naval tradition, the Navy League, Pittsburgh Council continues to support all of our maritime sea service men and women through **Outreach** and **Education** in the spirit of **Patriotism** and **Gratitude**.

Prominent among the support provided included the highly successful **Annual Kentucky Derby Party** hosted by **Polly Bozdech-Veater** and supported by over 50 participants. Your support contributed to the **USS Pittsburgh Scholarship Fund** helping seven students with strong ties to the **USS PITTSBURGH (SSN-720)**. A special thank you to **John Caspero**, CO of the USS PITTSBURGH



The Navy League of the United States
Serving the Sea Services since 1902

Relief Crew and **CAPT Jeff Coran, USN** for assembling the scholarship committee and reviewing the cases for each applicant.

Our Council was also well represented throughout the Pittsburgh area either leading or supporting activities to honor our sea service members, past and present. Of particular note, **Rick Elster** led the grand Elizabeth, PA Memorial Day Parade. Additionally, of special note, in June our council hosted the Chief of Naval Operations **Admiral Jonathan Greenert, USN** for a luncheon and discussion with over 100 attendees at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association.

Hope to see you at the **Steelers Training Camp Picnic** this summer and the **VA Picnic** in September. Please consider participating on the VA Picnic Committee for **Outreach** to our vets or consider giving **Bob MacPherson** a call to assist in educating our community on maritime affairs.

In support of our sea services,
Brad Harrison

Calendar of Events-2015

- Jan. Election of Officers for 2015
 Feb. 7 CMU NROTC Midshipmen Ball
 Feb. 28 Annual Council Awards Dinner, Pittsburgh Athletic Assn.
 Mar. 28 CMU NROTC Dining Inn
 April 1 MSU Ribbon Cutting-Bridgeville
 May 2 Kentucky Derby Party-benefit for *USS Pittsburgh* Scholarship Fund
 May 25 Memorial Day Celebration and Parade, Elizabeth, PA
 June 12 Golf Tournament-*USS Pittsburgh* Children's Christmas Party Benefit
 June 17 CNO visit and luncheon-PAA
 Sept. VA Picnic/Cookout, Aspinwall
 Sept. 7-12 Submarine Veterans, National Convention, Westin Hotel, Pgh.
 Oct. 2 Navy Birthday Ball, Sheraton Hotel, Station Square
 Oct. 3 Change of Command, NOSC
 Nov. 7 Veteran's Day Parade and Steel City Salute to Troops

MSU Pittsburgh Opens New Location

By LT. Devin P. Adams

On Wednesday April 1st, Marine Safety Unit (MSU) Pittsburgh welcomed industry partners, local officials, and members of the local community for the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony which announced the unit's new location in Bridgeville, PA.

The ceremony formally concluded a complex 10 year relocation project to Bridgeville. The new location not only houses all members and vital equipment under one roof, as it was previously three, it also proves to be a more accessible location for government and industry partners that need to meet Coast Guard personnel at the office.



Capt. Richard Timme and CDR Lindsey Weaver are joined by the MSU Pittsburgh crewmembers for the ribbon cutting.

In attendance were senior members from the Waterways Association of Pittsburgh, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the National Weather Service, the Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce (PAACC), as well as U.S. Congressman Timothy Murphy, and representatives for U.S. Senator Pat Toomey and other local state representatives.

Congressman Murphy was a member of the official party and offered kindhearted remarks to commemorate the new office. Other speakers, who also comprised the ceremony's official party, included PAACC President Bernadette Puzzuole, MSU Pittsburgh Commanding Officer Commander Lindsay N. Weaver, and Sector Ohio Valley Commanding Officer Captain Richard Timme. Captain Timme offered the ceremony's keynote address.

"We are thrilled to have finally completed the move to our new location in order to facilitate our operations," said CDR Lindsay Weaver, Commanding Officer. "It is humbling to be able to connect with members of the community in Bridgeville as quickly as we have. We look forward to more efficient operations as we carry out our missions and work with the maritime industry and government partners."

MSU Pittsburgh expresses its appreciation to all past and current members of the unit who had a positive impact on facilitating the move. The relocation project's success would not have been possible without the selfless contributions of many.

NROTC Unit Awards Presented

By Robert Conway

CAPT Jeff Coran, USN, Commanding Officer of the NROTC Unit serving Carnegie Mellon University, University of Pittsburgh, and Duquesne University presided over the awards ceremony on April 17. MIDN 1/C Colin Bredl, an Applied Mathematics student at the University of Pittsburgh, received the Naval Officer Sword for outstanding achievement, from the Navy League Pittsburgh Chapter and the Reserve Officers' Association. MIDN 1/C Bredl also received a clock/compass set from the Navy League Pittsburgh Chapter.



L to R: Capt. Coran, MIDN Bredl, Rob Conway, and Wallace Utley.

MIDN 1/C Colleen Casey, the Brigade Commanding Officer, received a clock/compass set from the Navy League Pittsburgh Chapter. Representing the Reserve Officers' Association was Wallace Utley, CAPT (USN Ret), and representing the Navy League Pittsburgh Chapter was **Robert Conway**, CAPT (USN Ret).

Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medals

By Bob MacPherson

The Pittsburgh Council of the Navy League of the United States recently presented the Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medal and Certificate to Cadet Staff Sergeant Coby Vigil at the 2015 Ambridge Area High School Marine Corps JROTC 14th Annual Military Ball in Monaca, PA. These medals are awarded to a young man or woman that has distinguished themselves in the fields of academic excellence, military bearing and adherence to the principles represented by

the mission of the Marine Corps JROTC program.

The May 16th event held at the Monaca Turners was a very impressive demonstration of the training and esprit de corps that is ingrained in the unit at Ambridge High School. The Silent Drill Team is not only well disciplined, but gave a demonstration that would rival any of the more seasoned units that exist elsewhere. The students and staff went out of their way to make sure that all of the participants understood the hard work and dedication that goes into this program. The entire evening was remarkable and the participants were able to see the dedication of both the students and staff that made the program exceptional.

The Navy League has three missions: to enhance the morale of active duty personnel and their families; inform Congress and the American public on the importance of strong sea services; and support youth through programs, such as the Navy Sea Cadet Corps, Junior ROTC and Young Marines that expose young people to the values of our sea services. Supporting the Ambridge Marine Corps Junior ROTC and the participants of the program is an honor and a privilege.

Congratulations to MSgt. Thomas G. Short (USMC, Retired) and the entire staff for producing such a high quality program

A Medal and Certificate were also presented recently to Cadet Lieutenant Commander Hannah Stawski of the NJROTC unit at Penn Hills High School.

Chief of Naval Operations Visits Pittsburgh

By Bob MacPherson

The Navy League, Pittsburgh Council was honored to have the opportunity to host Admiral Jonathan Greenert, Chief of Naval Operations, on 17 June at a luncheon at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association.

ADM Greenert is a native of Butler, Pennsylvania and plans to retire in the near future. This was a unique opportunity to hear from him directly in his role as CNO. The topic for his after lunch presentation was "UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF YOUR NAVY " and included an opportunity for participants to ask questions regarding issues related to the Navy and the interests of the various groups represented.

Bob MacPherson, Vice President of Education for the Pittsburgh Council, opened the event as the Master of Ceremonies and upon completion of the meal, **Brad Harrison**, President, introduced the CNO. The talk incorporated updates on the Navy's submarine and aircraft carrier building plans, operational strategies, and a very positive report on the current and future state of the Navy and Marine Corps. The highlights included cost savings on existing building programs and a path forward to reaching a 300 ship Navy.

There were over 100 people in attendance, including all of the major sea service commands in the Pittsburgh area and many of the commercial interests which serve the Navy and sea services. It was a great opportunity for the local interests to network and build longer term relationships. The CNO personally awarded each participant with a unique CNO "Challenge Coin" to commemorate the day. **Rob Conway**, VP of Membership, coordinated the round of picture taking opportunities, making sure each group got a unique photo with the CNO.

Joining the Admiral at the head table were **Brad Harrison**, President, Navy League, Pittsburgh Council and a selection of noteworthy individuals from local commands: Ensign Kevin Anderson, newly commissioned from the Steel City NROTC unit, CDR Fred Dini, SC, CO, Defense Contract Management Agency, Lt Eric Scoggins, Defense Contract Management Agency, CDR John "Jay" Calvert, CO, and YN1 Lisa Marie Corney, Navy Recruiting District Pittsburgh, PS1 Mellanie Ramirez, and LCDR Chris Briem, NOSC Pittsburgh.

Participants in the event included the following:

- Navy League, Pittsburgh Council President and Board Members
- Navy League, Pittsburgh Council, Members
- Navy Recruiting District CO, CDR Jay Calvert, USN and members
- Navy Operational Support Center staff and reservists
- Navy ROTC CO, CAPT Jeff Coran, USN, staff and Steel City NROTC unit members
- Commander 911th Air Reserve Wing, Col Jerry VanDootingh, USAF and staff
- Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit CO, CDR Lindsay Weaver
- Defense Contracting Management Agency, CDR Fred Dini, and staff
- Electromechanical Division, Curtiss Wright
- Bechtel Plant Machinery Inc.
- CDR Gary Reed, USN, ret, classmate of ADM Greenert
- United States Submarine Veterans Incorporates, USS Requin Base Leadership, including Huey Dietrich, President, Joe Campisi, and **Rick Elster**.



Brad Harrison presents ADM Greenert with a gift coaster from the Pgh. Council, NLU

Link to the photos taken at the event:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/cnogreenert>

Click on #5 at the bottom of the page to start searching for the pictures.

Special thanks go to **Paula Bozdech-Veater** for her outstanding organizational skills, which made the entire event nearly flawless. Polly was at a national Navy League meeting, but left enough instructions for all of the participants to perform their tasks very well. Thanks to all of the council leadership for helping to make this a great event. Special thanks to **Katherine Kersten** and **Debbie MacPherson** for making sure our guests were welcomed and their meals properly identified.

Derby Party

Polly/Paula Bozdech-Veater, Kentucky Colonel, hosted the Annual Kentucky Derby Party on May 2nd as a fund raiser for the USS Pittsburgh Scholarship Fund.

Sixty people gathered to watch the race, share great food, and drink mint juleps. American Pharaoh won the race (and the Triple Crown) and the USS Pittsburgh Scholarship Fund won over \$800.



Polly's fellow "Old Bird" Margaret Ronzio-Givens from St. Louis assisted with giving the party. Friends, Navy League members, Naval Academy Alumni all joined into the spirit of the party wearing hats and toasting with mint juleps. All had a great time and are looking forward to next year's party.

Amazon Smile Fund Raiser

When you purchase products on Amazon using Amazon Smile, the prices and the

products are the same as when you shop Amazon, but Amazon will donate 0.5% of sales to the charity identified - Navy League of the United States, Pittsburgh Council. This will help our fund raising endeavors to continue the mission and goals of our local council. For upcoming details watch our website navyleaguepittsburgh.org

Memorial Day in Elizabeth, Pennsylvania

Members of the Pittsburgh Council of the Navy League participated in the Annual Memorial Day reception and Parade in Elizabeth, PA on Sunday and Monday May 24 & 25th 2015. The reception was held at the Rock Run Inn at Butler's Golf Course in Elizabeth Township and the parade was held in Elizabeth Boro.

The weekend event is one of the longest continuous events in the Mon Valley and members of the Navy League have participated for many decades. LCDR **Rick Elster** (USN retired) was the Master of Ceremonies for both events.

The Pittsburgh Sea Cadets posted the colors at the beginning of the Sunday evening reception and led the group in reciting the pledge of allegiance. This was followed by Chief Warrant Officer **Bob MacPherson** (USN Retired) singing the National Anthem.

The special guest of honor and primary speaker for the event was Brigadier General Patrick J. Hermesmann, United States Marine Corps, Commanding General Fourth Marine Logistics Group.

Also present were Congressman Tim Murphy 18th district, Jim Brewster, State Senator, 45th district, State Representative Dr. Rick Saccone, 39th district and (retired USAF), District 33 Commander American legion Jeff Pope, President, NLUS Pittsburgh Council, **Brad Harrison**, Vice President Pittsburgh Council **Bob MacPherson**, Liberty Region President, Captain **Polly Bozdech-Veater** (USN ret.), Mayor of the Borough of Elizabeth, Ann Malady, and Elizabeth township commissioner Chris Evans.

Both events were well attended and the Navy League was definitely present and accounted for supporting this important community weekend recognition of Memorial Day.

NLUS National Convention

Polly/Paula Bozdech-Veater, Liberty Region President, recently attended the annual Navy League Convention, Tampa, FL. At the convention, **Judy Halleran** was appointed as a director emeritus. Judy, thanks for your many years of service to the Navy League. Skip Witunski, Tampa, FL, with many years of experience at the local and regional levels of the Navy League, was elected president.

During the convention, attendees had the opportunity to attend the commissioning of the USCG Cutter Richard Dixon. The commissioning was a very moving event, with the widow of BMCS Richard Dixon attending and serving as the ship's sponsor. BMCS Dixon was the recipient of two Coast Guard Medals for his life-saving efforts during Hurricane Celia.

Annual Golf Tournament

On Friday, June 12, the Tournament was held at Butler's Golf Course in Elizabeth, PA. Many thanks go to **Don Elborne** for again arranging for the event.

The weather was sunny and hot for the 52 golfers who participated. Included in the group were two players from the Pittsburgh Naval Recruiting Office and four from the Butler Naval Recruiting Office.

Prizes and funds were donated by dozens of donors. Special thanks to **Polly Bozdech-Veater** for helping with registrations and other chores.

The event raised \$1200, which is used for a holiday party and gifts for the children of the crew of the USS Pittsburgh.

2015 Navy Ball

Save the date, 2 October, for the Navy Ball. VADM Braun, Chief, Naval Reserve, is the guest speaker. It is anticipated that she will also participate in several activities in Pittsburgh prior to the Ball. Provide your e-mail to Polly/Paula at bozechvpm@aol.com and she will send you all the details.

USS Pittsburgh (SSN-720) Relief Crew News

by John Caspero

Homecoming

The 'boat' returned from an extended deployment in mid-May. The Ship's Sponsor, **Dr. Carol Sawyer**, had plans to meet the 'boat' and be part of the Welcome Home Festivities, but was unable to change her plane ticket from the West Coast to accommodate a last minute change in the arrival date of the USS Pittsburgh. Dr. Sawyer still hopes to be part of a homecoming before the ship retires.

Scholarships

The selection committee, hosted by CMU-NROTC, awarded \$6,865 in scholarship money; \$3,565 was from the interest on principal with funds on deposit with the Pittsburgh Foundation and \$3,300 came from contributions and fund raising efforts of the Relief Crew. The seven (7) recipients were: Matthew Adams, Nicholas Bushman, Gabriella Martinez, Shelby Sievers, who were awarded scholarship(s) in previous years, and Austin Blausner, Megan Blausner, Cory Boren, all first time awardees. Mr. Boren is a former member of 'ship's company' having served aboard the Pittsburgh for six (6) years; all of the other recipients are sons/daughters of a former crewman.

Navy Band Northeast Toured Locally

Navy Recruiting District Pittsburgh hosted the Navy Band Northeast "The Rhode Island Sound" tour of Pittsburgh and Latrobe, PA from June 20-25. They kicked off their tour with two performances at the Westmoreland County Airshow in Latrobe. Next three more performances were held in Mellon Square, Steel Plaza and Market Square, Pittsburgh. For more information on their local visit, go to:

<http://www.cnrc.navy.mil/NavyBandNortheast>.

NRD Pittsburgh Recruits First Enlisted Female Submariner

By MCC (SW/AW) George R. Kusner III
Navy Recruiting District Pittsburgh has the distinct privilege of recruiting the first female enlisted submariner in Navy history.

On March 10, 2015 Jasa Kristine Bryan from Rochester, NY enlisted as a Submarine Electronics/Computer Field (SECF) Electronics Technician. Female officers have been serving on board Ohio Class Submarines since 2011. On January 21, 2015 the submarine force began accepting applications for the Enlisted Women in Submarines (EWIS) Initiative. Bryan is a 2011 graduate of Webster Schroeder High School. She has been working on her Associate Degree in Elementary Education from Monroe Community College.

Two more enlisted female submariners:

Also on March 10, 2015 Sierra Joyce Hoover from Natrona Heights, PA and Lauren Ashley Groce from Shaler, PA enlisted as SECF Electronic Technicians. Hoover is a graduate of Highlands High School. Groce is a graduate of Shaler Area High School.

Recruiting District Selection

NRD Pittsburgh's own Aviation Machinist Mate Second Class Aviation Warfare Sara Ray Brookshier, out of NRD Station Morgantown, was selected to be one of the Navy's first enlisted submariners. She was selected to serve onboard *USS Michigan* and will convert to the Machinist Mate Auxiliary rating.

NRD Pittsburgh is responsible for more than 80,000 square miles, encompassing portions of Pennsylvania, New York, West Virginia and Maryland. More than 200 officers, enlisted and civilian staff operated 39 enlisted recruiting stations, seven Navy Officer Recruiting Stations and the headquarters. Additionally, four military Entrance Processing Stations; one at the headquarters in Pittsburgh and the other three in Buffalo, NY, Syracuse, NY and

Harrisburg, PA handle applicants' processing, classification and physical examination. For more information, visit www.cnrc.navy.mil/pittsburgh/

United States Submarine Veterans Inc. (USSVI) National Convention Comes to Pittsburgh

By Bob MacPherson

The Pittsburgh USSVI Requin Base will play host to the National Convention of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. The Pittsburgh Council of the Navy League has a number of members who are directly and indirectly involved with the gathering, which will be held at the Westin Convention Center from September 7-12 2015.

From the USSVI Web Site: *"Our annual convention is one of the largest and most exciting annual gatherings of submarine veterans in the U.S. This event offers attendees the environment, the setting and the unique opportunity to meet with fellow submariners to exchange ideas, reminisce and keep up to date on important information."*

This is a great event for the USSVI and certainly a great event to showcase Pittsburgh. I would encourage any submariners in the area to check out the web site listed below and look for ways to participate and celebrate this very important part of our Sea Services. Contact **Rick Elster** or **Bob MacPherson** for additional information or visit the convention web site: www.ussviconventionsteelcity2015.org/

Reminder

Each issue of our newsletter, *Port of Pittsburgh* is posted on our website www.navyleaguepittsburgh.org. Important articles, photos and breaking news can also be found there.

FLASH: Congratulations to CDR Craig S. Frangente (NOSC) on his selection to Commander.

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Outreach Committee Representative	Polly Bozdech-Veater	bozdechvpm@aol.com 412.782.2533	2/2017
<p>Past Presidents (Active Council Members)– non-voting: John Van Huyck (1977), Wallace Utley (1978), John Caspero (1980, 1992), David Erdodi (1981), Dick Halleran (1984-5), William Stein (1988), Richard Kennedy (1991), Doug Thompson (1993), Ray Boyer (1996), Karl Ludwig (1998), Bill Braund (2000), Stew Shannon (2001-2), James Bendel (2004), Paula Bozdech-Veater (2005-7), Judy Halleran (2008-10), and Al Hribar (20011-12), Henry Rainone (2013-2015).</p>			

National Officers:

NLUS Director Emeritus
 NLUS- Director Emeritus
 NLUS Director Emeritus
 NLUS Director Emeritus
 NLUS-Regional Director

Bill Braund
 Dick Halleran
 Richard Kennedy
 Judy Halleran
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April, May, June, 2015 Newsletter

Return Service Requested

**CNO ADM Greenert's Visit
MSU Pittsburgh's New Center**

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