



Port of Pittsburgh

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Letter from the President

It's hard to believe that summer is once again here. The leadership of the Council has been very busy for the past few months with graduations, commissionings, community support and of course serving our local Sea Services.

Several of us traveled to Elizabeth, PA for the Annual Memorial Day celebration and I was honored to speak at both the evening dinner and the Memorial Day ceremony. Our friend **Rick Elster** and the Elizabeth VFW and American Legion work tirelessly during most of the year to coordinate these remembrances and do an amazing job. The community has much to be proud of and I am grateful that Rick has provided the leadership year over year to make this happen.

I also participated with the USSVI Requin Submarine Vets Base "Tolling of the Bells" on Sunday morning on board the USS Requin at the Science Center on the waterfront. Commander Huey Dietrich and his Sub Vet Team always do a masterful job remembering the many submarine losses from the previous 118 years and this year was no exception. Well done, Commander.

This year was a special anniversary that coincided with the time we honor lost members of our military. Fifty years ago, in May, the USS Scorpion was lost, with all hands, in one of the two greatest nuclear submarine tragedies of our age (USS Thresher in 1963 being the other occasion). While submarines are not typically thought of on Memorial Day, for those of us who served on submarines, we never forget the sacrifices of the men and their families to provide for our freedom.

The Golf Outing was a wonderful affair also. Thank you, **Don Elborne** and **Polly Bozdech-Veater**, for the fantastic job in coordinating another fun event. The kids of the USS Pittsburgh have always been a wonderful project to provide for and this year's event will certainly put smiles on their faces.

I am grateful for all who serve the Council. Thank you for every service!

Bob



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

Pittsburgh Calendar of Events-2018

- | | |
|----------|---|
| Jan. | Election of Officers for 2018 |
| March 10 | Annual Council Awards Dinner, |
| May 5 | Kentucky Derby Party-benefit for
<i>USS Pittsburgh</i> Scholarship Fund |
| May 28 | Memorial Day Celebration and
Parade, Elizabeth, PA |
| June 1 | Golf Tournament- <i>USS Pittsburgh</i>
Children's Christmas Party
Benefit |
| Sept. | VA Picnic, Aspinwall |
| Oct. | Navy Birthday Ball |
| Nov. 11 | Veteran's Day |

To our members from the President and Current Board of Directors

Over the past few years, we have operated using funds that come from a very limited source. Part of our operating funds comes in the form of a rebate from the National Dues, but that amount is not very substantial. The expenditures outside of the USS Pittsburgh Relief Crew Scholarships and Children's Party donations are kept under very strict control and accountability.

We have recently completed a multiyear audit to verify that the funds collected and spent have been appropriately accounted for. But, like all organizations, we continue to see rising costs in mailings, newsletters and funds that are used to support our sea services here in Pittsburgh and in Connecticut (home port of the USS Pittsburgh.) Our Web site has been cited as being one of the best in the Region and we need to make sure we are putting our best foot forward for member services and retention.

On May 31, the Board held our Quarterly meeting and in accordance with our Bylaws (Section 2.6.1) voted to assess each member a \$20.00 annual fee for the period covering July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019. This assessment will be done annually. Checks should be made out to the "Pittsburgh Council NLUS 2018 Assessment", c/o Anita Sleigh, Treasurer at 112 Vista Ridge Lane, Valencia PA 16059.

Thanks in advance for helping keep the Pittsburgh Council growing.

Bob MacPherson bobmac711@live.com

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Kentucky Derby Party

A supportive and fun crowd of 45 gathered at Kentucky Colonel **Polly Bozdech-Veater's** home to celebrate the 144th Running for the Roses. We all enjoyed the beautiful weather and a great shared table of food, along with baked beans, hamburgers and the beautiful tray of strawberries. Justify, who now is a triple crown winner, won on a very sloppy track and the USS Pittsburgh Scholarship won over \$900.

NROTC Commissioning Ceremony By Bob MacPherson

Carnegie Mellon University Naval Reserve Officer's Training Corp Commissioning Ceremony was held May 19, 2018 at the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

I attended the recent commissioning ceremony for some of the Navy's newest Ensigns and Marine Corps Second Lieutenants. Commanding Officer William Breitfelder, USN, presided over the proceedings and was joined by the Guest of Honor, Colonel David M. Hagopian, USMC (Retired). The Oath of Office was administered by Colonel Hagopian to the seventeen Navy Ensigns and three Marine Corps Second Lieutenants.



Oath of Office

The families and friends gathered for the morning ceremony and you could tell there was a lot of pride in the achievements of the newly commissioned officers. Each has their own brand-new role to play in defending their country and we are proud to be a friend of the Steel City NROTC Unit.



Capt. Jon Minor, (USCG Ret.) and Bob MacPherson, NLUS, present sword to MIDN Elise Meszaros.

Colonel Hagopian addressed the group and in his remarks, he emphasized learning and listening as they prepared for their new assignments. His stories about his own learning curve as a young Marine were truly inspirational. One of the new Navy Ensigns is his daughter, Ensign Isabel Hagopian, who will be reporting to Naval Air Station Pensacola for her initial duty assignment. Ensign Hagopian was very helpful in several of our Navy League functions in the past year. I believe that she and her comrades are well prepared for the journeys ahead.

Fair winds and following seas to all our new officers.



MIDN of the Year Award to MIDN Michael DiBacco by Bob MacPherson

Coast Guard Members Adopt-A-Highway

Members of the Coast Guard Enlisted Association Steel City Branch volunteered with the Adopt-A-Highway program on April 11. Volunteers cleaned up trash and debris over a two-mile portion of PA 978 near Cuddy, PA. This two-year partnership involves bi-annual visits to the site to enhance the beauty of the roadside.



MST1 Campbell, MST1 Haggins, MST2 Worth, and MST3 Angier conducting trash clean up on PA 978

Local Students Receive Coast Guard Core Values Award

By LT Shawn Simeral

Coast Guard Recruiting Office Cleveland recently recognized three Western Pennsylvania high school students with the Coast Guard Core Values Award. Cadet Elle Hamilton and Cadet Logan Kaczmarek of Penn Hills High School Navy JROTC, and Cadet Connor Poisker of North Allegheny High School Air Force JROTC, received the awards from members of Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Pittsburgh.



LT. Simeral and Cadet Hamilton



Cadet Kaczmarek and LT. Simeral



Cadet Poisker and LTJG Leddy

The Coast Guard Core Values Award recognizes JROTC members who exemplify the Coast Guard's Core Values of Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty.

Sponsor a Wreath Today for the 2018 National Remembrance Ceremony

By Bob McPherson

The Pittsburgh Council is once again partnering with Wreaths Across America. This program is a way for us to honor our military members and their families whose remains are buried at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies in Bridgeville PA. This program has been shown on all national TV networks and is held across the country.

A portion of every contribution is returned to the Navy League to support our educational programs.

Costs of the wreaths are \$15 each; 4 for \$60, etc. To donate, click on this link:

<https://wreaths.fastport.com/donateLocation.html?page=47147>

Be sure to use Our Group ID: PAO294P

Location ID: PANCAB

If you have any questions about the program, contact me directly at bobmac711@live.com

Thank you.

Lights, Camera, Action

By Bob MacPherson

What do you do when you get a phone call from ABC's Good Morning America Show about helping to provide some Navy support for a local former sailor that makes good?

If you are the Navy League of Pittsburgh, you make a lot of phone calls, send a bunch of emails and wake up at 4:15 in the morning of April 30th to make sure you aren't late for the filming of an episode of "Deals and Steals" at the Point in Pittsburgh.

It was a crazy cold morning and lots of waiting around for a few minutes of air time. But I had a lot of support from the folks at the NOSC. ISSN Justin Petrilina, GSM3 Christina Greenwald, AS2 Travis Simons, PSC Chris Degothseir, MMC Eric Gordon, all showed up in their Dress Blues and provided a nice backdrop for the young entrepreneur as he showcased his product (Puzzle Paks). These innovative locally made products helped him to be a finalist in the Pittsburgh segment of the show and he was very surprised when he received a \$10,000 check from Vista Print for his idea and ability to market the products.



A special thanks to CDR Lee Ann Singleton, USN, Commanding Officer of the NOSC, for helping provide the Navy support. It ended up being a rewarding morning and it was great that our sailors got to be in the picture!

You can see the whole story here: <https://abcnews.go.com/GMA/Shop/gma-deals-steals-wheels-pittsburgh-exclusive-discounts-products/story?id=54785445>

Relief Crew News

by John Caspero

Membership:

At the end of May, we had 33 members. In addition to their membership dues, they donated a total of \$2,275 toward the activities of the Relief Crew.

2018-2019 Scholarships:

CMU-NROTC Unit will host the selection committee set to meet on Friday, June 15th. LT J. Smith, NROTC Instructor, will join the committee of **M. McIntyre, D. Beynon, R. Conway, R. MacPherson and J. Caspero**, Chairman. This year there are five applicants: two are dependents of personnel currently assigned and three are dependents of personnel that previously served aboard the 'boat'. Total funds available equals \$6,500 of which \$3,500 is the annual income from the principal on deposit with the Pittsburgh Foundation. A successful Kentucky Derby Party added \$900 to the scholarship fund.

USS Pittsburgh (SSN 720) Completes Historic 1,000th Dive

By: USS Pittsburgh (SSN 720) Public Affairs Officer Lt.j.g. Sheridan Rucker

GROTON, Conn. (NNS)—For USS Pittsburgh (SSN 720), making submarine history is just another day in the ship's long and storied tradition. On Nov. 15, 2017, USS Pittsburgh continued to add to history by completing its 1000th dive. The dive capped a busy underway period in which the ship completed Tactical Development Exercises, Submarine Command Course (SCC) and port visits to Port Canaveral, Fla. and Kings Bay, Ga.

During 32 years of commissioned service the ship has been a primary player in U.S. submarine history since its first dive in 1985. Pittsburgh was launched on Dec. 8, 1984 from Electric Boat with Capt. Raymond Setser in command. Pittsburgh remained homeported in Groton, Conn., where it has been a regular fixture on the waterfront since the 1980s.

Pittsburgh, the fourth U.S. Navy ship to be named in honor of the city of Pittsburgh, has conducted more than 15 deployments to various theaters in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and the Caribbean. Pittsburgh has made port calls all over

the world including Souda Bay, Gibraltar and Tunisia in the Mediterranean, Bahrain, and Jebel Ali in the Middle East, Panama, Western and Northern Africa, and multiple trips to Scotland, France, Spain and Norway. These port visits were essential to developing and maintaining strong relations with overseas partners.

The ship has a distinguished combat history. Pittsburgh was the first U.S. submarine to launch wartime Tomahawk Cruise missiles as part of Operation Desert Storm in 1991, followed by a second strike in 2002 as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“Speaking for the crew I can say it’s a tremendous honor to be part of this milestone. It makes you reflect on all the great places in the world the ship has submerged including the Arctic, Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans...Pittsburgh is a true veteran of the Seven Seas!” said USS Pittsburgh's 14th Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Neil Colston.

New Community Resource for Military Youth

Submitted by Kathy Puskar, DrPH, RN, FAAN

MilteenChat App is a ground-breaking initiative using mobile technology to empower military adolescents. The App is free and was designed by military youth as a community resource to cope with and overcome the challenges unique to military adolescents. Examples of these challenges include multiple relocations, being separated from a service member parent, the deployment of a service member parent to a war zone, changing peer groups, and fear of injury of a service member parent. Security measures have been included in the App. Parental approval is required. For more information, please visit our website: <https://www.milteenchat.com/>

Elizabeth Area Memorial Day Services & Parade 2018

Lt. CDR **Rick Elster**, USN (Retired) Commander of VFW Post 7632 and Commander Frank Tignanelli of American Legion Post 553 in Elizabeth were the Masters of Ceremony at the Annual Memorial Day events in Elizabeth. This traditional series of services starts on Sunday morning with a round of cemetery visits and firing squad salutes, a Reception on Sunday evening at Butler Golf Course in Elizabeth Township later in the day and culminates with the Monday morning parade and service

overlooking the Monongahela River in the Boro of Elizabeth.

The President of the Pittsburgh Council, **Bob MacPherson**, and National Navy League Vice President, Captain **Paula Bozdech-Veater**, USN (Retired) were guests for the dinner and Parade and Bob presented a short requiem for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the loss, with all hands on board, of the nuclear submarine USS Scorpion. The service and parade are one of the longest continuously running memorials in the Steel Valley with a rich history of tradition. The guest speaker was Rear Admiral Norman R. Hayes, USN (Retired), who had been the leader of the National Security Operations Center at the National Security Agency in Fort Meade, before his retirement.

NLUS National Convention

During the National Convention in Portland, OR from June 6-9, our own **Polly Bozdech-Veater** was elected as one of the nine national vice-presidents. Alan Kaplan will fulfill the second year of his term as president, Joe Giambrone will serve as treasurer and Dave Reilly as Judge Advocate. Pam Ammerman will also continue as Corporate Secretary. The Board of Directors also approved a concept of revised governance. For any info on the convention, contact Polly, 412-719-6432.

Sea Cadets

By LTJG Anthony Waters

On May 20, 2018, cadets from the Pittsburgh and Erie Battalions, as well as members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, assisted US Coast Guard Station Erie with their first Spring Open House in recent history.

The Erie Station is commanded by Chief Daniel Heitzer, a former Sea Cadet with the Pittsburgh Battalion. The cadets assisted with gate security, traffic control, parking, and crowd control. Cadets were on hand to answer questions about the Erie Battalion.

The event saw close to 600 visitors to the station, including multiple news crews, Coast Guard families, and retired Coast Guard Personnel. Guests were given a guided tour of the facility, Coast Guard vessels, and a helicopter flew in from Detroit just for this event. In addition to the Coast Guard, local emergency service agencies

were invited to showcase their water rescue equipment. The event was deemed a success by all who participated.

USS Pittsburgh and USS Pennsylvania Drawings and Prints

Don Beynon, Vice President of Education and Web Site Administrator, had informed the board of directors that he had in his possession some prints and drawings from the earlier USS Pittsburgh/USS Pennsylvania. These prints had been used for a project with Carnegie Mellon University and he was hopeful that we could find the right place for them for posterity.

That goal was achieved on June 11th when President **Bob MacPherson** met with the President and CEO John McCabe of the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall and Museum Trust. Also present were Tim Neff, Vice President/Director of Museum & Education, and Mike Kraus, Curator. The representatives gladly accepted this gift and indicated that it will be kept with other important relics related to the historical relics from the USS Pittsburgh/USS Pennsylvania.

These drawings give an impressive amount of details and will factor into the plans that have been in the making for a future display of relics already on hand. Hopefully at some point in the future, they can be seen in a more public manner befitting the legacy of the great ship that they were created for.

Golf Outing

By John Caspero

It was a gray and stormless day, but on June 1st, 52 'hearty' golfers showed up at Butler's Golf Course for a 10:30 AM shotgun start. We welcomed several 'first-timers' to our group.

Skill prizes included four closest to the pin holes and two longest putt holes. No longest drive holes this year with the thought being even old guys/gals can putt! High score (secret number) was attained by our Council President, **Bob MacPherson**.

Don Elborne organized the outing for the 24th time; his able admin assistant this year was **Polly Bozdech-Veater**. Many special auction items and Chinese auction items were available. The preliminary results show a profit of over \$2,700 for the USS Pittsburgh Children's Christmas Party.

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April, May, June 2018 Newsletter

Return Service Requested

**NROTC Commissioning Ceremony
Coast Guard Core Values Award
Membership Is Assessed an Annual Fee**

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