



Port of Pittsburgh

Official Publication of the Navy League of the
United States, Pittsburgh Council
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Edited by Katherine Kersten

Website: navyleaguepittsburgh.org

Letter from the President

Greetings fellow citizens in support of our sea services!

In a few short weeks we'll be whisked into the brisk air and warm colors of fall. Our summer certainly flew by. Several celebrations are upon us providing a tremendous opportunity to show **Patriotism & Gratitude**. I hope many of you can attend the Navy Birthday Ball on October 2nd. We will not only celebrate the Navy's 240th Birthday but also the 100th anniversary of the Navy Reserve. Many of our members have served or currently serve in the Navy Reserve and this event is an opportunity to celebrate their service as well as to hear important words from our guest speaker **VADM Robin Braun, Chief of Navy Reserve**.

Veterans Day is right around the corner as well and I ask that you take a moment to thank a veteran on this important day.

A very special **Outreach** picnic serving our hospitalized veterans was supported by our **Naval Sea Cadets Unit, Pittsburgh Battalion and members of the Shady Side Academy Alumni Council**. **Polly Bozdech-Veater, Katherine Kersten, Karl Ludwig, and Brad Harrison** provided and served the meal. Thank you all! The **service** and **engagement** for these veterans, midshipmen, and sea cadets makes us proud.

Hope to see you at the Navy Ball!

In support of our sea services,
Brad Harrison



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

RADM Gregory Visits the Area

On August 17, the Navy League, Pittsburgh Council, was privileged to enjoy a dinner with RADM Kathleen Gregory, Chief of Civil Engineers and Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command. Fifteen members joined her for dinner at Andora's Restaurant at the Old Stage Coach Inn, Fox Chapel.

We all enjoyed hearing of an update on the Navy especially of the efforts related to energy conservation. As part of the Navy Community Outreach Program, she also visited with NROTC students, the GE Power Conversion plant in RIDC Park, Mayor Peduto's Office and a STEM activity sponsored by Bettis Laboratories. Her visit concluded on August 19.

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. |
| April 1 | MSU Ribbon Cutting-Bridgeville |
| May 2 | Kentucky Derby Party-benefit for <i>USS Pittsburgh</i> Scholarship Fund |
| May 25 | Memorial Day Celebration and Parade, Elizabeth, PA |
| June 12 | Golf Tournament- <i>USS Pittsburgh</i> 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. |
| Sept. 26 | Golf Tournament for Navy Ball |
| 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 |
| Nov. 10 | Marine Corps. Birthday |
| Nov. 23 | 30 th Anniversary- <i>USS Pittsburgh</i> Commissioning |

Coast Guard MSU Pittsburgh Celebrates 225th Anniversary of Service Submitted by LT Devin P. Adams

On August 4, 2015, Marine Safety Unit (MSU) Pittsburgh and USCGC OSAGE personnel converged on North Strabane Park in Southwestern PA and conducted their annual celebration of the United States Coast Guard's anniversary.

This year marked the 225th anniversary of service for the branch, which finds its roots in the Revenue Cutter Service, an organization established in 1790 by Alexander Hamilton for the purposes of protecting American revenue and enforcing maritime laws. Since then, the organization has evolved several times, taken on a variety of vital roles, and transitioned departments to take the shape it is today in the form of the Department of Homeland Security's United States Coast Guard.

Units throughout the country and beyond take time out of their busy schedules to recognize the heroic acts and sacrifices of Coast Guard men and women on Coast

Guard Day, and Pittsburgh's two local units were no exception. While the meaning of the day still holds a special place in the heart of every Coast Guard member, the celebration often takes a more light-hearted approach.

This year's Coast Guard Day, consistent with the past several years, was one in which members as well as their families participated. Pittsburgh's event included numerous games and activities as well as a giant water slide for the many children in attendance.

The event was a great success this year. While Coast Guard personnel and family members enjoyed the festivities surrounding the event, MSU Pittsburgh and USCGC OSAGE were both able to take time out of their busy schedules to enjoy each other's company. Being able to generate camaraderie between local units is a great part of what makes the Coast Guard a great and cohesive organization, and this was an effective way to build and maintain that connection on a personal level.

Much appreciation goes to Marine Science Technician Chief Jason Spence for his tireless efforts in planning one of the most successful Coast Guard Day celebrations for the region in recent memory.

Change of Command for NOSC, Pittsburgh

The Navy Operational Support Center Pittsburgh will sponsor the Change of Command Ceremony at which Lieutenant Commander Craig S. Frangente, United States Navy, will be relieved by Commander Donald G. Haley, United States Navy on Saturday, the 3 October, 2015, 1400. The Ceremony will be held at the Navy Operational Support Center Pittsburgh 2475 Defense Ave., Coraopolis, PA 15108.

We wish CDR Frangente and his family the very best in their new duty station in Millington TN. A warm Pittsburgh welcome is extended to CDR Haley and his family.

Change of Command for Pittsburgh's Coast Guard Unit

Submitted by LT Devin Adams

On Monday, July 20, 2015, Commander Lindsay Weaver-Marcenelle successfully completed her three-year tour as Commanding Officer of Marine Safety Unit Pittsburgh and transferred command to Commander Leon McClain Jr.

The ceremonial Change of Command occurred at the Heinz History Center on Monday July 20 and served to formally recognize Commander Weaver-Marcenelle for her accomplishments as Captain of the Port Pittsburgh, as well as to welcome Commander McClain as the new Commanding Officer. Commander Weaver-Marcenelle also celebrated her retirement after 25 years of dedicated service to the U.S. Coast Guard.



Retired Admiral Sally Brice-O'Hara and CDR Weaver-Marcenelle with her Retirement Certificate.

"It was my pleasure to serve our wonderful community here in the headwaters of the Ohio River. Cooperation is the cornerstone of our success and vital to our missions of safety, security and stewardship. I am proud to have served in this region, and upon retirement to call this place my home."

Commander McClain makes his way to Pittsburgh bringing with him an extensive background in Marine Safety. He reports to Marine Safety Unit Pittsburgh from the Coast Guard Personnel Service Center's Officer Personnel Management Division in Arlington, Virginia where he served as a Marine Safety Assignment Officer in Washington D.C. Prior to this assignment, Commander McClain served as the Executive Officer of Marine Safety Unit Lake Charles from 2010-2013.

Honor, Knowledge, Service, Awareness, & Engagement



CDR. Leon McClain Jr.

Present at the ceremony were all current and many previous members of Marine Safety Unit Pittsburgh, professional partners from other governing agencies in Pittsburgh, as well as industry stakeholders from the Pittsburgh region's maritime community.

Memorial Ceremony on USS Requin

On Friday September 11th NRD Pittsburgh Sailors joined the United States Submariner Veterans Incorporated (USSVI) for their 9/11 Memorial Ceremony on the USS Requin outside of the Carnegie Science Center Museum. The USSVI is in Pittsburgh for their national convention from September 7th to the 12th.

Picnic Held at the VA Hospital in Aspinwall

On September 12th the Navy League Pittsburgh Council in conjunction with the Pittsburgh Battalion of the Naval Sea Cadet Corps and the Shady Side Academy Alumni Council and Shady Side students hosted over 40 veterans at the VA Hospital in Aspinwall for a picnic.

The Sea Cadets graciously took orders from the veterans in attendance while Navy League members **Katherine Kersten** and **Polly Bozdech-Veater** prepared the delicious food and Shady Side students loaded and reloaded plates.

Except for the welcoming comments and blessing by **Brad Harrison**, the juke box was playing and the veterans were sharing their

important stories with the volunteers and attendees. Special thanks to Navy League member **Karl Ludwig** for slicing the watermelon. Major Amber White from Military Processing Entrance Station (MEPS) and her husband, Kevin, also attended and served our veterans. Thank you to everyone for participating in such a wonderful event..



Shady Side Students and Sea Cadets helpers

USS Pittsburgh (CA-72) Loses Her Bow in a Typhoon

Submitted by Bob MacPherson

This story comes from the official Navy Historical site and discusses the story of the *USS Pittsburgh* during and after an event that happened near the closing days of the war. It is a testament to the bravery of the men who sailed her that not one life was lost despite some pretty major damage.

"In the evening of 4 June 1945 Admiral William F. Halsey's Third Fleet, which had taken a replenishment break after pounding the Japanese on Okinawa and Kyushu, encountered a small, violent typhoon southeast of the Ryukyu Islands. By early the next morning Rear Admiral Joseph J. Clark's Task Group 38.1, of which *USS Pittsburgh* was a member, was enveloped by the storm. Ships were rolling heavily in the high wind and waves and, despite changing course and reducing speed, most received damage. Just before 6AM on 5 June, the floatplane on *Pittsburgh's* port catapult was blown off. About a half-hour later the cruiser was hit by two very large waves and her bow broke away in front of her forward gun turret. Fortunately, as a precaution all watertight bulkheads had been closed and the crew sent to battle stations, so no lives were lost in the incident. Prompt work by damage control parties prevented any significant flooding and the ship was able to ride out the rest of the storm by keeping her stern into the wind.

After the typhoon had passed, *Pittsburgh* made her way to Guam, arriving on 10 June. The shortened cruiser was fitted there with a temporary "stub" bow, similar to those used on the torpedoed cruisers *Minneapolis* and *New Orleans* during the Guadalcanal Campaign. This work, made possible by the extensive repair facilities the Navy maintained near the combat zone, was completed in about two weeks. *Pittsburgh* was then able to steam safely across the Pacific to the West Coast, where a new bow was made and attached.

Meanwhile *Pittsburgh's* original bow was still afloat. Between 6 and 11 June the fleet tug *Munsee* (ATF-107), assisted late in the operation by her sister ship *Patana* (ATF-108), slowly towed the more than 100-foot long structure to Guam, where salvage work was undertaken.

The loss of *Pittsburgh's* bow, as well as less severe structural damage suffered by the heavy cruiser *Baltimore* and the light cruiser *Duluth*, dramatically demonstrated both the power of nature and the sometimes unreliable strength of contemporary welding. The latter problem, which resulted from both a not-completely-mature technology and the pressures of wartime production, was one that reared its ugly head from time to time on other war-built ships, both during and after the conflict.

Interesting note: The typhoon damage earned her the nickname "Longest Ship in the World" as literally thousands of miles separated the bow and stern.

Pittsburgh was decommissioned at the end of the war only to be brought back on line for the Korean conflict. She served again until 1956 until she was decommissioned and placed into the fleet reserves. The ship remained there until stricken on 1 July 1973 and sold for scrap on 1 August 1974

Retirement

EMC Mishakia Ford, Senior Enlisted Advisor, Navy Operational Support Center, Erie, recently retired. Her relief is PRC (AW) Robert L. Tolbert. A warm welcome to the Erie-Pittsburgh Sea Services Community.

Fund Raising for the Navy Ball

Honor, Knowledge, Service, Awareness, & Engagement

The Chief Petty Officers Association of McKeesport-Pittsburgh has taken the leadership role for the Pittsburgh Area Navy Ball. As part of this leadership has been efforts to raise funds for the ball---funds allow the junior folks to attend at a more reasonable rate. Donations are more than welcome. Please send checks made out to the Navy League, Pittsburgh Council, identify donation for Navy Ball to Bill Braund, 135 Cumberland Rd., Ste. 203, Pittsburgh, PA 15237 or "Go Fund Me", gofundme.com/qcc2axs.

A second option to help raise funds is to participate in the CPOA Golf Tournament on 26 September Westwood Golf Course, tee time 1:00 PM. Cost is \$85 per person including 18 holes, cart and buffet dinner. For further details and registration forms, contact BMC Andy Bruner, at bmcbrunner@gmail.com and registration forms. You don't even have to participate in the golf tournament to help raise funds---sponsor a hole for \$100. Again contact Andy.

Pittsburgh's Contribution to the Navy – Celebrating Seventy Years of Service

Submitted by Bob MacPherson

Pittsburgh has had a rich naval history and the Steel Valley has contributed more than its share to serving the nation. On the seventieth anniversary of the end of the Word War II, we are reminded that the raw materials and even vessels needed to win the war came in large part from the mines and mills of the region. The recent visit of the USS LST 325 is certainly a reminder of the strong connection with the Navy that Pennsylvania has.

The Dravo Corporation Shipyard played a key role in the effort. From a recent article:

“During World War II, Dravo's shipyard here was a leader in the manufacture of Landing Ship Tanks--LSTs--for the U.S. Navy. Dravo's over 16,000 workers produced a total of 145 LSTs. This and four other inland yards, all using techniques pioneered by Dravo, contributed two-thirds of the Navy's fleet of over 1,000 LSTs. These amphibious craft proved vital to the success of Allied landings on enemy shores, 1943-45.

LST—Landing Ship Tank or Large Slow Target ships were originally conceived by the British Admiralty after the disastrous withdrawal at

Dunkirk demonstrated a need to rapidly transfer troops and material to or from a beachhead. The Royal Navy met with the US Navy's Bureau of Ships and a concept was quickly designed into an incredible vessel that became the workhorse of the allied landings. The Dravo Corporation was designated as the lead shipyard for LSTs. The company developed fabrication techniques that reduced construction time and costs and were applied to the other shipyards that built LSTs. LST 1's keel was laid at Neville Island on July 20, 1942, and the ship was delivered to the navy on December 14, 1942—less than 5 months! Dravo built 145 LSTs during the war. The American Bridge Corporation in Ambridge built 119. There were a total of 1,051 LSTs built during WWII.

The LST was a moderate sized vessel, especially for an inland shipbuilder. It was 328 feet long and had a beam of 50 feet. It carried 2,100 tons of cargo at roughly 9 knots. It was armed primarily for defense against air attack.

LSTs were used in landings in Sicily and Italy. The initial beaching on D-Day used 173 LSTs. They were extensively used in the Pacific with the largest flotilla of 343 used in the first landing on Okinawa. Of the 1,051 built, only 23 were lost to enemy fire, and another 16 lost to weather or accidents. Most of the ships were scrapped in the late '40s after the war, but some built by Dravo during the war served in Korea and later in Vietnam.”

The success of the allies in overcoming enemy resistance was directly linked to the stoutness of the ships and the courage of the men who sailed on them and landed from their decks. Pittsburgh can be proud of her role in the great victories.





NAVY BIRTHDAY BALL

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2015

The pleasure of your company is requested at the celebration of the 240th birthday of the United States Navy and the 100th anniversary of the United States Navy Reserve.

Sheraton Station Square, 300 W. Station Square Drive, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

**GUEST SPEAKER: VICE ADMIRAL ROBIN R. BRAUN, USN
CHIEF OF NAVY RESERVE; COMMANDER, NAVY RESERVE FORCE**

Military: Service Dress Blues
Optional: Dinner Dress
Civilian: Business Attire,
Black Tie Optional

Reception with Cash Bar: 1800
Formal Program: 1900
Buffet Dinner: 2000
Dancing: 2100-2300

Please respond by September 18, 2015

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Ticket Prices: \$70.00 O-5 and above, Civilians
\$60.00 E-7 through O-4
\$40.00 E-6 and below

Please make checks payable to:
McKeesport Pittsburgh CPOA
401 East Green St., Connellsville, PA. 15425

POC: ETC Scott Provance
Email: provancesese@upmc.edu
Phone: (412) 580-2099

POC: CAPT Paula Bozdech-Veater
Email: bozdechvpm@aol.com
Phone: (412) 719-6432

A block of rooms has been reserved for this event. For reservations, call: (412) 261-2000.
Parking is available on site.

Pittsburgh Educators Learn to Build Underwater Robots

From Lt. Cmdr. Michael Fourte, USN

On Friday, September 11th, 2015, 30 educators from nearly 20 high schools, middle schools and youth organizations in Allegheny and surrounding counties gave up a day of school to gather at the new Penn State Energy Innovation Center in downtown Pittsburgh where they received training from the US Navy on how to build underwater remotely operated vehicles (ROVs).

This training is provided at no cost to teachers and educators and those who complete the training will receive close to \$1,000 in tools and materials from the U.S. Navy to help bring this technology to their classrooms and clubs. The educators and mentors will spend the academic semester in their classrooms teaching hundreds of students in the Greater Pittsburgh area to build their own vehicles. The students will be exposed to Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) concepts as they have fun building these hands-on robots.

After building these ROVs, the students will compete among one another at an underwater obstacle course and oral presentation competition at Carnegie Mellon University's newly renovated pool in February 2016. Spectators welcome.

"The United States Navy is committed to STEM outreach and we want to encourage America's emerging leaders toward science and engineering disciplines. While we hope to attract bright professionals to lead our future Navy, we know that any student who pursues advanced education in STEM will ultimately benefit our great Nation" said Lt. Cmdr. Michael Fourte, U.S. Navy City Outreach Officer for the Northeast Region.

For more information on SeaPerch, visit www.seaperch.org. For more information on the Navy's STEM programs, visit www.navystemfortheclassroom.com.

NRD Pittsburgh News

From MCC (SW/AW) George R. Kusner III

We have two new Chief Petty Officer Selectees:

ENC (SEL) Sherwin Orio - Works in the Greensburg Recruiting Station and

NCC (SEL) Kenyata Jones - Works in the Robinson Town Center Recruiting Station.

They will be pinned to Chief on the 16th during a ceremony in Milroy, PA

This Flag

Anonymous

This flag stands sentinel on the grave of an American hero. He represents so many more who gave their blood, their lives and their sacrifices so that men and women could live in a land where freedom continues to grow.

This flag is made of cloth died in colors that are red, white, and blue. The red represents their blood, the white represents the purity of their sacrifice, and the blue represents the everlasting sky where their souls remain for the ages. These symbols of liberty are woven together strong enough so that no man or woman can destroy their spirit.

This flag

Men have fought in battles the world over so that the freedom sought by so many could come to pass. In jungles, in bitter snow, in rain that washed away their clothing, this flag inspired them to overcome great odds and liberate people around the globe.

This flag covered my Father's coffin, his Father's coffin, and his Father before him. When I take my last farewell, there is a flag with my name on it too. When you disrespect, desecrate or destroy this flag, you do so to every man and woman who ever served this country in times of war and peace. You do it to their families, you do it to their neighbors and you do it to yourself. Freedom in America is always balanced with responsibility.

Patriotism

Pittsburgh Council Board of Directors

Gratitude

| Director's Office | Name | Contact Information | Office Expiration |
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| Vice President of Education | Bob MacPherson | bobmac711@live.com 717.606.7047 | 2/2017 |
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| Immediate Past President | Henry Rainone | nluspitt.rainone@verizon.net 412.596.6143 | 2/2017 |
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| CO of Pittsburgh Relief Crew | John Caspero | jfcaspero@verizon.net 412.257.6141 | 2/2017 |
| Outreach Committee Representative | Polly Bozdech-Veater | bozdechvpm@aol.com 412.782.2533 | 2/2017 |

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).

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

Bill Braund
Dick Halleran
Richard Kennedy
Judy Halleran
Liberty Region President

Polly Bozdech-Veater

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**Ambridge High School
Marine Corps JROTC**
MSgt. Thomas G. Short (USMC Ret)

**West Allegheny High School
Marine Corps JROTC
Commanding Officer
Maj D.G. Botizan, USMC, Ret**
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**I & I, Surgical CO, Alpha
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**Command Chief (SEL)
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**NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES,
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PITTSBURGH, PA 15237**

July, August, September 2015 Newsletter

Return Service Requested

**Navy Birthday Ball Invitation
Change of Command USCG MSU, Pittsburgh
Retirement of CDR Lindsay Weaver**

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