



Port of Pittsburgh

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Edited by Katherine Kersten

Website: navyleaguepittsburgh.org

<https://www.facebook.com/NavyLeaguePittsburgh/>

Letter from the President

Happy 243rd Birthday US Navy

As I sit here typing this letter, I am surrounded by the many mementos that marked my own family's journey through the years that involved the Navy. Looking up from the computer, my shadow box sits just above the screen reminding me of so many adventures that were promised when I first took the oath over 46 years ago. Pictures of my Dad's graduation from boot camp are right alongside the ones taken of my nephews in their dress blues just a few generations later. Then there are submarine pictures and models that all pay tribute to the boats that have helped to keep the country free for so many years. Submarines like our own *USS Pittsburgh* that Dad and so many others from Pittsburgh went to see commissioned on that cold day in November in 1984.

Pittsburgh has a long connection with the Navy dating back to before the Civil War. But with four ships carrying her name into conflicts around the globe, there can be no mistaking the connection between the city and her nation's defense. The number of men and women from the area that served on so many ships and in Navy units of all kinds is also testament to the contribution the Steel City has made to the country.

But we should never forget the many other contributions Pittsburgh and the surrounding areas have made. Our steel and other products made right here in the valley have made sure those men and women were ready and had the best materials they needed to fight for our freedoms. One of the most significant contributions in the last seventy years is the machines and devices that have powered the

newest part of the national defense: Nuclear Power.

In 1948, the nation was still looking for a way to extend the reach of its submarine force when the Atomic Energy Commission signed a contract with Westinghouse to develop the atomic engines that were up to that point a theory. Then Captain Hyman G. Rickover specifically chose Westinghouse and the Pittsburgh area because he knew that they had the engineering and skilled workers that could get the job done. Not in twenty years as so many had predicted, but in less than three. In July 1951 the United States Congress authorized the construction of a nuclear-powered submarine for the U.S. Navy, which was planned and personally supervised by Captain Rickover, known as the "Father of the Nuclear Navy." On 12 December 1951 the US Department of the Navy announced that the submarine would be called *Nautilus*, the fourth U.S. Navy vessel officially so named. The boat carried the hull number SSN-571. The boat was launched on 21 January 1954 and was commissioned on 30 September 1954.

As she set sail, the memorable words "Underway on nuclear power" echoed around the world. The Navy had its first nuclear-powered vessel. Every US Navy nuclear vessel since has directly or indirectly benefited from the work that still goes on in and around Pittsburgh. That is one of the things we are celebrating at our Annual Birthday Ball at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Ballroom on October 12th. On behalf of the board and the many organizations that have worked so hard to put this event on, I hope you will consider attending.

Bob

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. 29	VA Picnic, Aspinwall
Oct. 12	Navy Birthday Ball
Nov. 11	Veteran's Day

Annual Fee Assessment

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 31, 2019. This assessment will be done annually. Checks should be made out to the "Pittsburgh Council NLUS 2018 Assessment", c/o Anita Sleight, Treasurer at 112 Vista Ridge Lane, Valencia PA 16059.

Thanks in advance for helping keep the Pittsburgh Council growing.

Bob MacPherson bobmac711@live.com

717.606.704

Navy Ball

This is a special Navy Ball celebrating the 243rd birthday of the Navy on October 12. We are fortunate to have RADM David Hahn, USN former Commanding Officer of the *USS Pittsburgh* as guest speaker, as well as Dr. Carol Sawyer, sponsor for the *USS Pittsburgh*.

We are also celebrating 70 years of nuclear excellence and are back at Soldiers and Sailors Museum. Please see the Navy Ball insert for details. Please call or send reservations to **Bob MacPherson**, 724-633-0295, bobmac711@live.com, or **Polly Bozdech-Veater**, 412-719-6432 bozdechvpm@aol.com. Tickets will be held and distributed at the door.

Commemorative Coins



We are selling commemorative coins to celebrate the Navy's birthday and help subsidize the costs of the 2018 Navy Ball. Donation is \$12.00 per coin if you want them shipped and \$10.00 for those attending the ball.

Send your donation, made out to Navy League Pittsburgh Council to Bob MacPherson, 3 Circle Drive, West Newton PA 15089

The coins will be available the first week of October.

VA Picnic, September 29

The Navy League, Pittsburgh Council along with the ROA Sea Services Chapter are sponsoring its annual picnic for veterans on September 29 from 11 AM-1 PM at the H.J. Heinz Veterans Center, 1010 Delafield Road, Pittsburgh, 15215.

We will meet at the gazebo, weather permitting. The inclement weather location is the recreation hall in the main building.

We need donations of items for veterans "goody bags"---playing cards, hats, etc. Contact **Bob** or **Polly** if you have any of these items that you would like to donate. Please come out and spend time with some of our great veterans.

Marine Safety Unit Pittsburgh Change of Command

On June 27, **Bob MacPherson**, President, Navy League, Pittsburgh Council, represented the Council at the Marine Safety Unit Pittsburgh Change of Command held at the Heinz History Center.

It was a beautiful and very meaningful event as the audience overlooked the Allegheny River and the role of the Marine Safety Unit Pittsburgh was highlighted. CDR Leon McClain was relieved by CDR Aaron Demo.



CDR McClain and CDR Demo

Bob presented CDR McLain with a Wendell August tray featuring highlights of Pittsburgh. Thanks to CDR McClain for all his support and best wishes and welcome to CDR Remo and family.

2018 Wreaths Across America Program By Bob MacPherson

The Pittsburgh Council Board of Directors has again made the decision to participate in the local National Cemetery program that participates in the placement of wreaths in national cemetery's that are located across the country. Our local cemetery is the National cemetery of the Alleghenies located near Bridgeville, PA.

Each December on "National Wreaths Across America Day", our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as over 1,200 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea, and abroad. This year the wreaths will be set on December 15th.

Last year, we became one of the sponsors for the program and we were able to help people donate 60 wreaths. As a sponsor, a small portion of each donation comes back to the Pittsburgh Council and this year we raised about \$300.00 that will be used to support our many local programs.

For those of you who have never been to the cemetery, I would encourage you to take the short drive there once the wreaths are in place. The

tribute to the men and women (and their families) is something that must be seen to be appreciated.

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

Friends of the Sea Services

Each year, the Navy League and Friends work tirelessly to provide a meaningful Navy Ball celebration for our local active duty and reserve Navy personnel. This year we are returning to the Soldiers and Sailors Museum Ballroom and a grand program is planned. We could use your help to make sure this will be affordable to all our sailors, both now and in the future.

Please consider contributing to our special Navy Ball Fund. We are specifically hoping that you or your business will consider helping with the following suggested contributions:

Admiral Level: \$1500.00

Commodore Level: \$1000.00

Captain Level: \$500.00

Gold: \$100.00

Silver: \$75.00

Of course, the option to directly contribute to paying for individual tickets for a sailor and his guest is always open.

The Pittsburgh Navy League is a 501 C3 organization

You are encouraged to consult your individual financial advisor for guidance concerning any charitable contributions.

Contact **Bob MacPherson** at bobmac711@live.com or 724-633-0295 to discuss this more in detail.

Make donation checks payable to the *Navy League, Pittsburgh Council, and Navy Ball Fund* on the memo line and send to **Anita Sleigh**, 112 Vista Ridge Lane, Valencia, PA 16059.

The McKeesport-Pittsburgh Chief Petty Officers Association
and

The Navy League, Pittsburgh Council

request the pleasure of your company at the
2018 Navy Birthday Ball

celebrating the 243rd Birthday of the U.S. Navy
and 70 years of Nuclear Excellence

Friday, October 12, 2018
Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall and Museum
4141 5th Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213

Reception: 6:00 PM

Dinner: 7:00 PM

Dancing: 8:30 PM

Military Dress: Service Dress Blue with Ribbons or equivalent

Optional: Dinner Dress Blue

Civilian Dress: Business Attire

Optional: Black Tie

Ticket Price per person:

O5 and above, their guests, & Civilians - \$70

E-7-O-4 & guests - \$60

E-4-E-6 & guests - \$40

E-1-E3, midshipmen, & guests - \$30

Please R.S.V.P. by September 24, 2018

Bob MacPherson, bobmac711@live.com or

Polly Bozdech-Veater, bozdechvpm@aol.com

Guest Speaker: Rear Admiral David J. Hahn,
Chief of Naval Research and former CO of the *USS Pittsburgh* (SSN 720)

Youth Programs

**Naval Sea Cadets Unit
Pittsburgh Battalion
Commanding Officer
LCDR Guy Mignogna**
(W) 412-225-5469
(C) 412-373-8924
tazman1010@hotmail.com

Executive Officer
LTJG Anthony Waters
(C) 412.761.9658
anthony.waters.@pittsburghseacadets.com

Penn Hills HS NJROTC
309 Collins Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15235-3839
1st SGT. Martin Kenderson
mkender@phsd.k12.pa.us
412.793.7000 x 5319

**Ambridge High School
Marine Corps JROTC**
**MSgt. Thomas G. Short (USMC
Ret)**
TShort@ambridge.k12.pa.us
724.266.2833 x 2221
C: 724.799.1948

**West Allegheny High School
Marine Corps JROTC**
**Commanding Officer
Maj D.G. Botizan, USMC, Ret**
724.695.520.5239
dbotizan@westasd.org

Active Duty Commands

**U.S. Coast Guard,
Marine Safety Unit**
1041 Washington Pike, Ste. 300
Bridgeville, PA 15017
412.221.0807

**Commanding Officer
CDR Aaron Demo**
Aaron.W.Demo@uscg.mil

**Executive Officer
LCDR Frances Smith, USCG**
Frances.m.smith@uscg.mil

**MST Chief
Jason M. Spence**
Jason.M.Spence@uscg.mil

USCG CGC Osage
McKown Lane, Sewickley, PA
412.741.1180
**OINC
BMCS Shane Yonushonis**
Shane.A.Yonushonis@uscg.mil

**Marine Corps Recruiting
Battalion, Pittsburgh**
Federal Building, 1000 Liberty Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
412 496.3616

**Commanding Officer
Maj. Andrew Hornfeck USMC**
(C) 412.395.4917
andrew.hornfeck@marines.usmc.mil

**Executive Officer
Capt. Robert Lass, USMC**
412.395.4917
Robert.Lass@marines.usmc.mil

**Senior Enlisted
Sgt Maj Clifford Fincham, USMC**
clifford.fincham@marines.usmc.mil
412.395.6357

**Carnegie Mellon University
Naval Science ROTC**
4615 Forbes Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3796
412.268.5109

**Commanding Officer
CAPT. Bill Breitfelder**
wbreitfe@cmu.edu

**Executive Officer
Maj, Kelly Johnson, USMC**
kelly1@andrew.cmu.edu

**Navy Talent Acquisition Group
(NTAG)**
713 Federal Building
1000 Liberty Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
412.395.5809

**Commanding Officer
CDR Peter Hoegel, Jr.**
peter.hoegel@navy.mil

**Executive Officer
CDR Thomas McKeon**
thomas.j.mckeoni@navy.mil
412.395.5809; c 615.498.8564
**Senior Enlisted
Master Chief Mistie Marcucci**
412.395.5755
mistie.d.marcucci@navy.mil

**Navy Operational Support
Center (NOSC)**
1265 Rocky Lane
Coraopolis, PA 15108
412.776.4000

**Commanding Officer
CDR Lee Anne Singleton, USN**
lee.a.singleton@navy.mil
412 776.4021

Executive Officer
Lt. Sam Colton
sam.e.colton@navy.mil
412.776.4011; c 662.3526064

Senior Enlisted Advisor
PSC Chris A. Degothseir

Chris.degothseir@navy.mil
412.776.4022

Marine Units
625 E. Pittsburgh-McKeesport Blvd.,
North Versailles, PA 15137
Marines I-I, MP Co B
Capt. Claudio G. Casanova, USMC
412.672.3472 ext. 200
claudio.casanova@usmc.mil

1stSgt Mark Shawhan, USMC
mark.shawhan@usmc.mil

I & I, Surgical CO, Alpha
4th MED BN, 4th MLG
LT Jennifer Soland
jennifersoland81@gmail.com

Command Chief (SEL)
HM1 Richard Lang
richard.a.lang1@usmc.mil

I-I CO K, 3/25
MAJ David Borden, USMC
412.678.0837
david.borden@usmc.mil

1st Sgt. Keith A. Sandor, USMC
Keith.Sandor@usmc.mil
412.678.0837 X311

NOSC ERIE
3938 Old French Road,
Erie, PA 16504
814.866.3073

**Commanding Officer
LCDR Evita Sailes, USN**
evita.sailes@navy.mil

**Senior Enlisted Leader
PRC (AW) Robert L. Tolbert.**
NOSC_ERIE_SEL@navy.mil

Marines I-I
Capt. Joshua Gato, USMC
(b) 814.868.0848 X 2100
Joshua.Gato@usmc.mil

Erie Coast Guard Station
1 Coast Guard Station, Erie, PA 16505
814.838.2097
**OINC
BMC Dan Heltzer**
Daniel.J.Heltzer@USCG.mil
814.838.2098; c 814.434.3224

Defense Contract Management
Agency Pittsburgh
2790 Mosside Blvd., Ste 510
Monroeville, PA 15146

CDR Robert James
Robert.James@dcma.mil
412.702.9376

**NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES,
PITTSBURGH COUNCIL
8229 EAST VAN BUREN DRIVE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15237**

July, August, September 2018 Newsletter

Return Service Requested

**Navy Ball Invitation
Coast Guard Change of Command
Friends of Sea Services Appeal
Commemorative Coin Sale**

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