



# Port of Pittsburgh

Official Publication of the Navy League of the  
United States, Pittsburgh Council

Oct., Nov., December 2016 Volume 20. No. 4

Edited by Katherine Kersten

Website: [navyleaguepittsburgh.org](http://navyleaguepittsburgh.org)

## Letter from the President

Happy New Year! 2017 is right around the corner and soon we will be welcoming aboard a new set of directors as our Council's elections will be held in the January/February timeframe. Our outstanding nominees for your new leadership team are eager to continue to take our Council to greater heights—please send them your votes and support as the next two years unfold. Thank you for the privilege and honor of serving our ***Navy League of the United States, Pittsburgh Council*** as President for these last two years.

Thanks to the incredible service of our officers and contributing members the ***Navy League of the United States*** continued its missions to **Educate** our local leaders & the general public on maritime issues AND to **provide Outreach** to the local men & women of our sea services and their families. Please join me in praising our members who gave very significant support to advancing our mission: **Polly Bozdech-Veater, Katherine Kersten, John Caspero, Bob MacPherson, Don Beynon, Rob Conway, Nick and DJ Krawec, Karl Ludwig, Jim Bendel, Don Elborne and John Van Huyck**, among others. Thank you for your generosity of time, treasure, and talents!

As the year 2017 unfolds, I ask each of you to consider participating in one or more Council sponsored events this next year in support of our ***Navy League*** and our new leaders, perhaps beginning with honoring the men & women of our local sea services at the



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

upcoming **Annual Council Awards Dinner. *Patriotism and Gratitude*** will be in proud display. I hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Brad Harrison

## Children's Christmas Party

A Christmas Party for the children of personnel assigned to the ***USS Pittsburgh*** was held on December 10th. The theme of the party was "Pajamas and Pancakes". Each child, 12 yrs. and under, (there are 92 of them) was given a \$25 gift card to Toy R Us for selection of a toy. Additional funds were provided toward the costs of the party.

The primary source of funds for the annual Christmas Party is the golf outing chaired by **Don Elborne**. Don rivals Santa in the number of gifts he has provided for the children for over 18 years as the golf outing chairman!

## Navy Ball

The Pittsburgh Sea Service Community gathered on 7 October to celebrate the Navy's 241st birthday at the Futule's Harmar House. With over 175 guests attending, we gave a special Pittsburgh welcome to guest speaker Master Chief Kingsbury, Fleet Forces Command Chief.

Master Chief Kingsbury spoke on the importance of tradition and how tradition evolves over the years; for example the Navy evolving from sails to nuclear.



CAPT. Polly Bozdech-Veater (Ret.) and Chief Michelle Brockovich, President, Chief Petty Officers Association of McKeesport-Pittsburgh present a gift to Master Chief Kingsbury

LCDR **Rick Elster**, USN, ret. was the oldest sailor attending and the youngest sailor was MIDN Benjamin Hoffschneider, Steel City NROTC Unit.

Thanks to the Steel City NROTC unit for providing the color guard and Master Chief Paul Angeliccho for arranging a great itinerary for Master Chief Kingsbury during his visit to Pittsburgh. Master Chief Kingsbury was able to have a tour of Bettis Laboratories, a visit with the Navy Recruiting Command Chief's Mess and with the staff of the Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC).

Let's extend an extra special thank you to the Chief Petty Officers Association of McKeesport-Pittsburgh for all of their efforts to fund raise and take the lead in planning and executing the Ball. It takes a lot of work

and each year the Chiefs work to make this a great event for the Pittsburgh Sea Service Community. Thanks to the Commanding Officers of the Navy Recruiting District, NROTC, NOSC and Marine Safety Unit along with CDR (Congressman) Tim Murphy for participating in this great celebration.

## Jim Bendel Conducts Commissioning

On September 23 **Jim Bendel** had the honor of swearing in his nephew, Jay Arnold, as a Second Lieutenant in the Marines.

The ceremony took place at the Korean War Memorial in Tallahassee, Florida.



Jim writes: "What a proud moment that was for me! Surrounded by his classmates from Florida State University, many of whom would be joining him in service to our country, I was able to witness the excitement and energy of these young men and women as they prepared to step forward in our footsteps."

"Standing before him, as I rendered the first salute to memorialize his commitment to the defense of our Constitution, there was no doubt in my mind that our future is in good hands."

Congratulations to both Jim and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Jay Arnold.

## Checque Hall Dedication Ceremony

Sunday December 11, 2016

The Pittsburgh Battalion of the US Naval Sea Cadet Corps was able to honor one of their own at a special ceremony in their new home at the Elizabeth Township Community Center.

Chief Petty Officer Nicholas D. Checque was a former member of the Cadets who went on to be a decorated Navy SEAL. Sadly, his life came to a tragic end during a rescue mission in Afghanistan in 2012.

The ceremony consisted of honorariums presented by the Navy League and representatives from several area elected officials. All of the presentations focused on the sacrifices of all the men and women that have given their lives, but highlighted the dedication to duty and excellence that will serve as a lasting reminder for generations of Cadets that will follow in his footsteps.



**Bob MacPherson** congratulated the Sea Cadets on behalf of the Navy League.

Cadet Chief Petty Officer Ian Sleight was the spearhead and force behind this initiative. As early as last December, he committed to finding the right way to pay tribute to this American Hero and allow Checque's service to be remembered in a way that would both honor him and be an inspiration to the Naval Sea Cadets. When the sign was unveiled outside of the building, he completed the achievement of that goal. The Checque

Family, including his mother and one of his sisters with her family, expressed their gratitude and were impressed by the organization and commitment of the Cadets and the staff which work with them. Guy Mignogna is the commanding officer of the Battalion.

Bravo Zulu to all involved.

## Calendar Fund Raiser for *USS Pittsburgh*

The Family Readiness Group (FRG) of the *USS Pittsburgh* (SSN-720) has a fund raiser consisting of selling 2017 calendars with a different photo of the *USS Pittsburgh* every month. The calendars are \$12 each, with additional shipping charges as follows: 1 @ \$2.25; 2 @ \$3.30; 3-6 @ \$6.75.

You may submit an order directly to: Ms. Carrie Spencer; 5 Nemczuk Drive, Norwich, CT 06360.

Please make checks payable to the FRG. Payment by credit cards can be made through their PayPal account using the email address [pittsburghfrg@gmail.com](mailto:pittsburghfrg@gmail.com). To contact Carrie via e-mail: [carrietupper@gmail.com](mailto:carrietupper@gmail.com); to contact Carrie by phone-(240) 447-2328.

Let's support our namesake and the wonderful families assigned!

## NJROTC Program--Penn Hills High School Seeks Leader

The NJROTC Program, Penn Hills High School is in urgent need of a retired Navy Officer or Senior Enlisted to lead the NJROTC program. This Program has been and continues to be a very successful youth leadership program.

If interested in this full-time, year around position, please contact Mr. Tom Tano, Director of Human Resources, Penn Hills School District, [ttano@phsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:ttano@phsd.k12.pa.us), or phone 412-793-7000 ext.1260.

### Passing of Carol Gates

Carol J.A. Gates, age 88, died peacefully with family by her side on November 3, 2016, after a short illness.

Carol and her late husband, Bob, hosted many of the crew of the USS Pittsburgh and Navy League members.

The full obituary can be viewed and notes of sympathy can be posted at <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/postgazette/obituary.aspx?pid=182621659>

### USS Pennsylvania Gold Crew Visit By Bob MacPherson

In October 2016, the Pittsburgh Council of the Navy League received an email from the Gold Crew Executive Officer of the *USS Pennsylvania* SSBN 735 informing us about an upcoming visit to the Steel City NROTC Unit, centered at Carnegie Mellon University.

The visiting team would include CDR Andrew J Clark IV, (Commanding Officer, Gold Crew), Damon Gilliam, MTCM, Command Master Chief and LT Michael Rodriguez, Communications Division Officer.

In the XO's note he stated that "We are looking forward to the opportunity for our command leadership to visit our namesake state and any opportunity to interact with members of the community there."

The Pennsylvania team arrived the evening November 27<sup>th</sup> and got a great taste of Pittsburgh. Starting at 0630, the team, accompanied by **Bob MacPherson**, arrived at the Steel City NROTC office and met with CAPT Bill Breitfelder and his staff. Shortly after that, a brisk walk in the morning air to do a presentation to the Midshipmen about life on submarines. That was followed by a lively Q & A session with the entire group and individual sessions afterwards.

Following the morning event, the team walked over to the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall, where they were met by John F. McCabe, President & CEO, and Michael Kraus, Curator, who helped explain some of

the artifacts, including the ornate bow dressing from the early Battleship *Pennsylvania* (later renamed the *USS Pittsburgh*).

A visit to the Primanti Brothers Sandwich Shop was a hit as our guests got to sample an old Pittsburgh favorite. Then, they travelled to EMD Curtiss Wright to get an unclassified tour set up by **Stew Shannon**. Stew was extraordinarily gracious to make all of the needed arrangements, as well as conduct the tour, along with several of his former submarine sailor employees.

The *USS Pennsylvania* is one of the largest submarines ever built by the U.S. Components of the boat were built in Pittsburgh, at both Bettis and Curtiss Wright.

Submarines like the *USS Pennsylvania* are classified as Fleet Ballistic Missile Submarines (FBM). They are about 600 feet long, as opposed to a Fast Attack Submarine like the *USS Pittsburgh*, which is about 361 feet long.

The Navy League sponsored a dinner at the Monterey Bay Fish Grotto, Mt. Washington. **Paula Bozdech-Veater** did most of the preparatory work and served as hostess at the dinner.

The team later expressed how much they appreciated the hospitality of the Navy League. It was great to be able to showcase Pittsburgh.



MTCM Damon Gilliam, CDR Andrew J Clark, IV, CAPT Bill Breitfelder, and LT Michael Rodriguez.

### H.J. Heinz Veterans Center Picnic

The picnic for the veterans at the H.J. Heinz Veterans Center, co-sponsored by the Navy League and the Reserve Officers Association, Chapter 50, was a HUGE success this year.

Over 60 veterans enjoyed hamburgers cooked by **Dave Erdodi, Jon Minor, Nick Krawec, John Caspero** and **Brad Harrison. Katherine Kersten** and **Margot Minor** graciously headed up the preparation and serving teams. All enjoyed **Polly Bozdech-Veater's** famous baked beans.



Helpers from the NROTC and Sea Cadets

The Steel City NROTC unit members and the CAPT Neil Judd Battalion, Sea Cadets members did a wonderful job of serving the veterans, transporting them to and from their rooms and listening to each of their stories. Thanks also to the Shadyside students and parents who lent a hand with the arrangements and serving.

### Relief Crew News

By John Caspero

The Relief Crew provided funds for two separate "Halfway Night" parties held for the personnel of the USS Pittsburgh.

A party for the children was held on Nov 5th; the party for the adults was held on Nov. 12th.

Recognition letters were forwarded to the C.O. of the 'boat' in the outstanding performance of the Sailor of the Year -MMN1 (SS) Kyle R. Brennan; and the Junior Sailor of

the Year - YN2 (SS) Gregory E. Loston. Included in each letter was a monetary award.

### Salute to World War II Submariners

*Note: This information was submitted by LCDR Rick Elster and is taken from the Requin Base Newsletter, Commander Hubert C. Dietrich's 'Commander's Corner'.*

Working with Navy Recruiting District Pittsburgh, CO Jonathan "Sloma" Channell, XO Peter Hoegel and Public Affairs Officer Chief George R. Kusner III, we were able to put together the certificates for our WWII Submarine Veterans, who had qualified in submarines between 1942 - 1945.

At the recent annual Christmas Luncheon we honored our WWII guys. We have a total of 13 special WWII shipmates and seven were able to attend. They are: Sal Molierno, Charles Schwertfeger, Dr. James Ross, Vince Segeleon, Robert Watson, Robert Stahl and Fred Voskuhl. CDR Peter Hoegel, Jr. presented them with the certificates. They read as follows:

*In testimony and tribute to "THE GREATEST GENERATION" and your service to the United States Submarine Service of WORLD WAR II you have demonstrated a long tradition of proud and dedicated service to your nation.*

*As a life member of United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. and the Requin Base, we salute and honor you in recognition of your achievements which have exemplified the highest standards of the silent service.*

*HONOR - COURAGE - COMMITMENT*

The attendees were presented beautiful quilts from the local Quilts of Valor Chapter.

The following WWII veterans, who were unable to attend, were sent the certificates: Hubert Brown, Herbert Hollingsworth, Robert Kaufman, Robert Krautstrunk, Richard Biemer and Earl Woods.



## Youth Programs

### **Naval Sea Cadets Unit Pittsburgh Battalion Commanding Officer**

**LCDR Guy Mignogna**  
(W) 412-225-5469  
(C) 412-373-8924  
[tazman1010@hotmail.com](mailto:tazman1010@hotmail.com)

### **Executive Officer**

**LTJG Anthony Waters**  
(C) 412.761.9658  
[anthony.waters.@pittsburghseacadets.com](mailto:anthony.waters.@pittsburghseacadets.com)

### **Penn Hills HS NJROTC**

309 Collins Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15235-3839  
**1<sup>st</sup> SGT. Martin Kender**  
[mkender@phsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:mkender@phsd.k12.pa.us)  
412.793.7000 x 5319

### **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**  
724-695-5201 ext. 5239  
[dbotizan@westallegheny.K12.pa.us](mailto:dbotizan@westallegheny.K12.pa.us)

## Active Duty Commands

### **U.S. Coast Guard,**

**Marine Safety Unit**  
1041 Washington Pike, Ste. 300  
Bridgeville, PA 15017  
412-221-0807

### **Commanding Officer**

**CDR Leon McClain**  
[leon.mcclain@uscg.mil](mailto:leon.mcclain@uscg.mil)

### **Executive Officer**

**LCDR Frances Smith, USCG**  
[Frances.m.smith@uscg.mil](mailto:Frances.m.smith@uscg.mil)

### **MST Chief**

**Jason M. Spence**  
[Jason.M.Spence@uscg.mil](mailto:Jason.M.Spence@uscg.mil)

### **USCG CGC Osage**

McKown Lane, Sewickley, PA  
412-741-1180

### **OINC**

**BMCS Shane Yonushonis**  
[Shane.A.Yonushonis@uscg.mil](mailto:Shane.A.Yonushonis@uscg.mil)

### **Marine Corps Recruiting Station Pittsburgh**

Federal Building, 1000 Liberty Ave  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
412 496-3616

### **Commanding Officer**

**Maj. Frank Mease, USMC**  
(C) 412-395-4917  
[frank.mease@marines.usmc.mil](mailto:frank.mease@marines.usmc.mil)

### **Executive Officer**

**Capt. Michael Kelly, USMC**  
412.395.4917  
[Michael.Kelly@marines.usmc.mil](mailto:Michael.Kelly@marines.usmc.mil)  
412.395.4642

### **Senior Enlisted**

**Sgt Maj Clifford Fincham, USMC**  
[clifford.fincham@marines.usmc.mil](mailto:clifford.fincham@marines.usmc.mil)  
**.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](mailto:wbreitfe@cmu.edu)

### **Executive Officer**

**Maj, Kelly Johnson, USMC**  
[kelly1@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:kelly1@andrew.cmu.edu)

### **Navy Recruiting District, Pittsburgh**

713 Federal Building  
1000 Liberty Ave  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
412-395-5809

### **Commanding Officer**

**CDR Jonathan Channell, USN**  
[Jonathan.channell@navy.mil](mailto:Jonathan.channell@navy.mil)

### **XO CDR Peter Hoegel, Jr.**

[Peter.Hoegel@navy.mil](mailto:Peter.Hoegel@navy.mil)

### **Command Chief**

**Master Chief Gerald Chiu**  
412-395-5755  
[Gerald.chiu@usmc.mil](mailto:Gerald.chiu@usmc.mil)

### **Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC)**

1265 Rocky Lane  
Coraopolis, PA 15108  
412.776.4000

### **Commanding Officer**

**CDR Donald G. Haley, USN**  
[donald.haley@navy.mil](mailto:donald.haley@navy.mil)  
412 776-4021

### **Senior Enlisted Advisor**

**PSC Chris A. Degothseir**  
[Chris.degothseir@navy.mil](mailto: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](mailto:claudio.casanova@usmc.mil)

### **1stSgt Mark Shawhan, USMC**

[mark.shawhan@usmc.mil](mailto:mark.shawhan@usmc.mil)

### **I & I, Surgical CO, Alpha**

4<sup>th</sup> MED BN, 4<sup>th</sup> MLG  
**LTJG Joseph Williams, USN**  
[Joseph.Williams1@usmc.mil](mailto:Joseph.Williams1@usmc.mil)

### **Command Chief (SEL)**

**HMC John Watkins, USN**  
[john.t.watkins@usmc.mil](mailto:john.t.watkins@usmc.mil)

### **I-I CO K, 3/25**

**Capt. David Borden, USMC**  
412-673-0801 ext.310  
[david.borden@usmc.mil](mailto:david.borden@usmc.mil)

### **1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Keith A. Sandor, USMC**

[Keith.Sandor@usmc.mil](mailto:Keith.Sandor@usmc.mil)  
412.678.0837 X311

### **NOSC ERIE**

3938 Old French Road,  
Erie, PA 16504  
814-866-3073

### **Commanding Officer**

**LCDR David Q. Baughier USN**  
[david.baughier@navy.mil](mailto:david.baughier@navy.mil)

### **Senior Enlisted Leader**

**PRC (AW) Robert L. Tolbert.**  
[NOSC\\_ERIE\\_SEL@navy.mil](mailto:NOSC_ERIE_SEL@navy.mil)

### **Marines**

#### **I-I**

**Capt. Joshua Gato, USMC**  
(b) 814.868.0848 X 2100  
[Joshua.Gato@usmc.mil](mailto:Joshua.Gato@usmc.mil)  
**1st Sgt**

### **Erie Coast Guard Station**

1 Coast Guard Station, Erie, PA 16505  
814.838.2097

### **OINC**

**BMC Stephen Pickard, USCG**  
[Stephen.A.Pickard@uscg.mil](mailto:Stephen.A.Pickard@uscg.mil)

### **Defense Contract Management Agency Pittsburgh**

2790 Mossidae Blvd., Ste 510  
Monroeville, PA 15146

### **I & I Surgical Company**

**Capt. Frederick M. Dini**  
[frederick.dini@dcma.mil](mailto:frederick.dini@dcma.mil)  
412.576.0781 (Blackberry)  
412.702.9376

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

**October, November, December 2016 Newsletter**

**Return Service Requested**

**Ballot for Election of Officers  
Navy Ball Report  
Sea Cadet Hall Dedication**

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