



Port of Pittsburgh
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<https://www.facebook.com/NavyLeaguePittsburgh/>

Letter from the President

December 10, 1948 was the most significant day in the history of the Navy's 70 year relationship with Pittsburgh. On that day, a journey was begun which is still in progress today.

On August 4, 1948, the Navy had created a new Nuclear Power Branch with Captain Rickover as its head within the Bureau's Research Division. Rickover had made it clear that he needed the right engineers and partners to build the power plant that would power the next and all future generations of submarines.

On December 10, 1948, Westinghouse signed a letter of agreement with the Navy to build a propulsion plant for a submarine "within the shortest practicable time."

From the original history recorded in the book "Nuclear Navy":

"Westinghouse would be required to 'do all detail engineering, produce the working drawings, procure the necessary materials, and construct the Mark I plant,' which would be a land-based prototype. Argonne would provide design and engineering data and, as the Commission's agent, would approve the working drawings prepared by Westinghouse. In all phases of the work Westinghouse would cooperate in every respect with Argonne in exchanging personnel and information. The contract also recognized that the aim was to design Mark I so that it would meet Navy specifications for a submarine propulsion plant. Therefore, concurrently with its work on Mark I, Westinghouse would undertake research and development for subsequent models of Mark I which could be installed in submarines. The Commission authorized Westinghouse to obtain suitable office space, laboratories, and shop facilities at government expense and specified



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

interim financial arrangements until a definitive contract could be signed."

With that signature and those efforts, Pittsburgh's place in providing the Navy with a future that included functional nuclear power was secured. Generations of our neighbors and family have helped to build the engines and plants that secure our nation's place in the world as a Navy to be feared and respected. Happy anniversary to you and thank you for the incredible work you have done through the years.

Bob MacPherson

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 30, 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

Pittsburgh Calendar of Events-2018

Jan.	Election of Officers for 2018 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

Navy Ball Coins

Several you have asked about getting a coin that was available at the Navy Ball. The coin has turned out to be very popular.

If you want to get a coin(s), contact Bob MacPherson, bobmac711@live.com

Donation \$15, including shipping

When: Only 40 coins will be available after 6 Dec.

How to pay: make checks out to **Robert MacPherson**, and mail to 3 Circle Drive, West Newton, PA 15089

Free Tax Preparation

Robert Morris University is once again conducting a free tax preparation service for all current and former service members on campus. To schedule an appointment, people can email freetaxes@rmu.edu or call Marcel Minutolo at 412-397-5451.

Suicide Awareness Coin

By ITC(SW) Douglas Stoberski ret

McKeesport-Pittsburgh Chief Petty Officers Association (CPOA) is raising suicide awareness by means of a Challenge Coin, (One suicide is too many STOP 22).

A few years ago, surveys revealed a shocking statistic: 22 soldiers and veterans die every day as a result of suicide. Multiple organizations created and expanded programs in order to reach out to those in greatest need, trying to stem the tide.

McKeesport-Pittsburgh CPOA lost ITC(SW) David Ringhand two years ago. In memory of David, a challenge coin for your actions to save a Veterans life was designed. It can make you aware of the feelings a Veteran may be having on the front, and some of the core values the Veteran had while serving their branch of service. McKeesport-Pittsburgh CPOA is going to donate 100% of the proceeds to It's about the Warrior Foundation. (<http://iatw.us/>)

David served his country in the U.S. Navy from 1992 until 2012 for 20 years and retired as a Chief Petty Officer. David's passions were being a role model for Navy personnel and cooking. He was a member of the Chief Petty Officers Association and the American Legion. He had many adventures in his Naval career May 25, 1973 - August 29, 2016

Price local will be \$20 hand to hand and \$27 to ship. (I can fit up to 10 in one Box)

PayPal: CPOA.412@gmail.com Family and Friends Be sure to add in a Note of:

Number of Coins Mailing address

If you know someone that is in need of help, please make the call.

1-800-273-8255 Veterans Crisis Line

Family Assistance Centers

Below is information for the Family Assistance Centers (FAC). The Centers serve military members from all services.

The Centers are staffed by FAC Specialists who provide information and referral to resources and benefits available within the military network, within local community and at state and national level.

Programs include: Family Readiness, State Child and Youth, Joint Family Support Assistance, Military Family Life Consultant, Personal Financial Counselor, Survivor Outreach Services, Transition Assistance Advisors, Resilience Risk Reduction and Suicide Prevention, Behavioral Health, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response. Yellow Ribbon and Employment Outreach are additional resources offered by State Family Programs Branch.

FAC Six Essential Services offered by FACs include but not limited to:

- 1) **Legal Resource and Referrals** - Assistance with Power of Attorney/Wills, Service Members Civil Relief Act, USERRA, ESGR
 - 2) **Financial Resource and Referrals** - Understanding military pay; referrals for financial assistance grants/loans; referrals for personal financial management training
 - 3) **TRICARE Resource and Referral** - Assistance with TRICARE Medical and Dental applications; identifying medical service providers; claims assistance
 - 4) **ID Cards and DEERS** - Assistance with obtaining dependent ID cards through nearest RAPIDS Centers
 - 5) **Crisis Intervention and Referral** - Emergency assistance with sensitive issues
 - 6) **Community Information and Outreach** - Assistance with Child Care resources, employment and career resources and VA benefits resources etc.
- For a complete list of FACs throughout the state or country, go to Website: <http://www.jointservicessupport.org/FP> (info on the program), specific locations: <https://www.jointservicessupport.org/spn>
Thanks to Cheryl Fink for sharing the latest update.

Local Sixth Graders and the USS Pittsburgh

South Fayette sixth grade students are involved in a year-long learning project with the nuclear-powered submarine, USS Pittsburgh. The sub was commissioned in 1985 and is commanded by the first native Pittsburgher, CDR Jason Deichler.

The Pittsburgh Council has long supported similar programs developed by **Laurene Kristoff**, Linton Middle School. Mrs. Kristoff shared her experiences with “Where in the World is the USS Pittsburgh?” with Frank Kruth, Middle School STEAM Coordinator.

The students were given information about the history, design and operation of the boat. Students wrote letters to the crew asking for challenges they encounter during their deployment, such as the small amount of space available to stow their gear and how they deal with being under water for long periods of time. Each student designed a styrofoam cup which will be sent to them for a dive, then returned to the student. The change in each cup will become a scientific lesson for them.

Additional activities are planned such as improving mapping skills, designing 3-D printed coins, and building submarines.

Local Coast Guardsmen Support Hurricane Response

By LT Shawn Simeral

Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Pittsburgh deployed six members to support response efforts for Hurricanes Florence and Michael. LTJG Aidan Leddy-Phillips, MST1 Jason Starking, BM1 Christopher Hudgins, BM2 Donald Tantanella, ME2 David Kelley, and MK3 Brody Judd deployed to various locations in North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, and Alabama.

“The men and women of MSU Pittsburgh are always ready to serve the Port of Pittsburgh and our nation when called upon. The sacrifices our members and their families make to serve the American people is truly inspiring,” said CDR Frances Smith, Executive Officer of MSU Pittsburgh.



BM1 Hudgins during the Hurricane Florence response

More than 2,000 Coast Guardsmen mobilized with aircraft, cutters, boats, and contingency equipment from across the service to save over 1100 lives, restore commerce in four major ports, and address nearly 300 maritime pollution threats.

Marine Safety Unit Pittsburgh Welcomes New Members

By LT Shawn Simeral

Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit (MSU) Pittsburgh received two new unit leaders this transfer season.

CDR Aaron Demo relieved CDR Leon McClain Jr. as the commanding officer of MSU Pittsburgh. He will assume the responsibilities of Captain of the Port, Officer in Charge of Marine Inspection, Federal Maritime Security Coordinator, and Federal On-Scene Coordinator for an area spanning Western Pennsylvania, Eastern Ohio, and Northern West Virginia. He previously served at Coast



Guard Headquarters as a traveling inspector. CDR Demo is a graduate of Massachusetts Maritime Academy and is originally from Maryland.

Chief Marine Science Technician Caesar Valdez will serve as the Chief Petty Officer in charge of Port Operations. He previously served in the Port State Department of MSU Lake Charles in Louisiana. Chief Valdez is originally from San Antonio, TX.

MSU Pittsburgh provides unified command and control for accomplishing Coast Guard missions along the 328 miles that comprise the headwaters of the Ohio River System on the Allegheny, Monongahela, and Ohio Rivers.

Coast Guard Hosts Local Industry Day

By LT Shawn Simeral

Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Pittsburgh hosted an Industry Day on November 15 in Monroeville, PA attended by more than 60 people representing 36 agencies.

This event included extensive information presented by the Coast Guard, Army Corps of Engineers, National Weather Service, and the National Transportation Safety Board. Topics included marine casualties, permitting, towing vessel regulations, maritime security, and pollution.



LT Christie Smith during Industry Day

Coast Guard Industry Days provide an open forum for port partners to have an opportunity to review current policies and regulatory issues, and to learn about programs that affect the port.

Track Santa

The North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) again is participating in tracking Santa. Go to <https://www.noradsanta.org/> and see all the activities, games, books, mobile app, songs, etc. and then participate on tracking Santa on Christmas Eve.

Vietnam Veterans

The Heinz History Center is preparing an exhibit opening on April 13 on the Vietnam War. They are looking for photos, letters, artifacts, metals, works of art and personal stories to be included in an exhibition. Contact Samuel Black, 412-454-6391, SWBlack@heinzistorycenter.org to discuss exhibiting any of your special items/memories.

**Pittsburgh's 2018 Navy Ball
Forged by the Sea,
Tempered by the Steel City
Coming Home to Soldiers and Sailors**

By Bob MacPherson

This year was the first year in a long time that the Navy Ball was held in the ornamental gathering place where it had been held in years past. The great committee worked very hard to put together all the pieces that would make this work. Feedback from some of our core constituency had indicated that a central location would be more convenient and there are very few locations as nice and affordable as the main ballroom at Soldiers and Sailors. The benefit of having a place so closely tied to the Navy's history in Pittsburgh was indeed a bonus. The staff at Soldiers and Sailors, the caterers from All the Best Catering and Eric Wenning from Wenning Entertainment bent over backwards to work with us to make this a great event.

Nearly 200 tickets were sold and the crowd that gathered that night to hear Rear Admiral David Hahn (a former CO of the USS Pittsburgh) speak about the future of the Navy and its proud relationship with Pittsburgh.



RADM David Hahn

Lt. Sam Colton played a key role as Master of Ceremonies and kept the program on track and on time.



Lt. Sam Colton

LCDR Rick Elster, USN Ret., used the Table of Honor Ceremony to remind us of those who were not able to be in attendance because of their sacrifices. We had a special performance by Ms. Antolena Damico, who set the stage with a brilliant rendition of the National Anthem and kicked off the entertainment with two crowd pleasing songs.

There are so many people to thank, including **Captain Polly Bozdech-Veater** for keeping the program tight and well scripted and Ensign Brooke Houle for her tireless work behind the scenes. If you saw one of the special coins we used to raise funds, you saw her work. It was her design that was used on all our branding. As a bonus, over 650 coins have been sold to date which helped to make sure we kept our budget in control. Thanks to McKeesport-Pittsburgh Chief Petty Officer's Association and all the committee members for making this an evening to remember.

Most of all, thank you to our many sponsors including Bill Wolffe, CFP, Fragrasso, USAA, Sarris Candy, **John Van Huyck, Vic Hulina, Katherine Kersten, CWO2 and Mrs. Bob MacPherson, Captain Jim Bendel, USN Ret, and Dr. and Mrs. Karl Ludwig.** Without their generous support, we would not have been able to get this done.

*Happy Holidays and
Best Wishes for 2019*

RELIEF CREW NEWS

By **John Caspero**

Deployment: The ‘boat’ is underway performing its assigned missions. Meanwhile, there is some partying going on! A ‘Halfway Night’ Party was held for the kids of personnel assigned to the boat on October 21st. The ‘Halfway Night’ party for adults was held on November 3rd. Continuing in the

celebration mode, the annual Christmas Party for the children of personnel assigned to the sub, will be held on Dec. 15th. While the news of this Christmas Party is being included in the ‘Relief Crew News’ please note that the party funds are from the proceeds of successful golf outings held each June, chaired by **Don Elborne**.

Patriotism

Pittsburgh Council Board of Directors

Gratitude

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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), **Al Hribar** (20011-12), **Henry Rainone** (2013-2015), **Brad Harrison** (2015-2017).

National Officers:

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- NLUS- Director Emeritus
- NLUS Director Emeritus
- NLUS Director Emeritus
- NLUS-Vice President

- Bill Braund**
- Dick Halleran**
- Richard Kennedy**
- Judy Halleran**
- Polly Bozdech-Veater**

Youth Programs

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Oct., Nov., Dec. 2018 Newsletter

Return Service Requested

Navy Ball Report
Joint Study: South Fayette Students
and USS Pittsburgh Personnel

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