



BLUE & GOLD

Navy League Of The United States San Diego Council 48-02 | February 2018

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JON BERG-JOHNSEN

This month kicks off with our Breakfast Meeting on 2 February featuring the Commanding Officer of the USS OMAHA (LCS-12) that will be commissioned on 3 February at the Broadway Pier in Downtown San Diego. The ship and her crew are another great addition to the growing number of ships and personnel being assigned in San Diego over the next several years.



2018 began with a terrific start including the election of new Board Members set to dive in and keep us moving forward. Thank you to all our Members who attended our January Annual Meeting. We hope most of you will keep attending our Breakfast and other events that support our Sea Service Members and their families.

Congratulations to our 2018 Board Members! Here is the line up of our Board. The Board Executive Committee is comprised of Tony Johnson is the 1st VP, Tamara Marks is Secretary, Bill Marks is Treasurer, Phyllis Barber is VP of Homefront San Diego, Irene Well is VP of Women's Activities and Lorraine Santirosa is VP of Programs, and myself as Council President. The remainder of the Board includes Father Krulak as our Chaplain, and Committee Chairpersons: Jay Rindler – Welcome Home; Rhonda Berg-Johnsen – Scholarship; Melanie Lang – Legislative Affairs; Bob Berman – Communications; Jay Lott - Membership. We have openings for Committee Chairs of Sea Services, Fundraising, and Youth Activities. The remaining Board Members are Will Hayes, Hugh Butt, Dave Grundies, John Shiltz, John MacIntyre and Jason Minter. If you have the desire to be an active participant, contribute your time, and hopefully a small amount of funds, to help the Council please contact myself at presidentsdnl@gmail.com, our Executive Director, Jay Lott at jay@navyleague-sd.com or any other Board Member you may know and let us know what you want to do to help. Also, you don't have to be a Board Member to help. If you just want to volunteer and help out with a one of our standing events throughout the year, or show up and support a Welcome Home event we can help you get in touch with the right person.

Speaking of volunteers, I would like to offer my personal thanks and a special debt of gratitude to three exceptionally dedicated individuals who have supported Navy League and our Council over the years and have recently stepped away from the Board. First is Warren Savage. He has been connected with Navy League since 1962. He has been an active part of Navy League Youth Programs, in particular Sea Cadets, as a supporter and leader of efforts to ensure the vitality and function of these programs remain true to their goals. Most recently he has been the 1st VP of our Council and has been the person who was always there to offer support, guidance and sound advice during the

Breakfast Meeting February 2, 2018

7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

ADMIRAL BAKER CLUBHOUSE

GUEST SPEAKER

Commander Michael H. Toth
Prospective Commanding Officer
Littoral Combat Ship Crew 213

“The raising of that flag on Suribachi means a Marine Corps for the next five hundred years.”

— James Forrestal,
Secretary of the Navy;
23 February 1945

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RECOGNITIONS



(l-r) Newly elected council Board of Director's, John MacIntyre, Hugh Butt, Jason Minter, John Schiltz and Henry Johnson, "swear to faithfully serve, to the best of their ability, the interest of our Nation, its maritime services and the Navy League."



REAR ADMIRAL WILLIAM D. BYRNE, JR. Commander, Carrier Strike Group 15 addresses council members at the January breakfast meeting.

San Diego Council

UPCOMING 2018 EVENTS

- March 28 Enlisted Women of the Year Luncheon (*looking for someone to Chair this event*)
Town and Country Resort & Convention Center
- April 25 -02 May The 2018 International Frigate Working Group (IFWG)
Admiral Kidd Club at Point Loma North Harbor Drive Annex
- September 29 Chalet at the MCAS Miramar Air Show
MCAS Miramar (*looking for someone to Chair this event*)
- September The Armed Services Family Readiness Volunteer Recognition Ceremony
Place and Date TBD (*looking for someone to Chair this event*)
- October 243rd Navy Birthday Ball
October 13 at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina
- November 243rd Marine Corps Birthday Luncheon
Place and date TBD (*looking for someone to Chair this event*)
- December San Diego Sea Services Spouse of the Year Recognition Lunch
Place and date TBD (*looking for someone to Chair this event*)

Please support one or more of your council's events. And don't forget the monthly recognition of service members at our breakfast meetings. Through your belief in our mission, strong sea services and our commitment to our men and women in uniform, we can make 2018 better!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

many challenges over the past two years. Second is Joan Mitchell. She has been part of Navy League in some capacity for over 30 years. She is still active today as the Regional President and supports our Council Foundation organization as President. She has been an exceptional supporter and valued member of our Council's Board for many years and has always brought candid and helpful points of view to keep us grounded. Third is Melissa Franklin. She has been leading our VP of Youth Programs for several years now and lived that commitment daily as leader of a local Sea Cadets group inspiring young men and women to challenge themselves to attain goals they may not have tried without her leadership and encouragement. Many of us won't have the time or the desire to excel at the level of these three, but if we can have people just give 20% of what these three individuals have done for the Council we will be in great shape going forward!

Looking forward, the month of March gets started quickly for us with another Breakfast on 2 March. Our Speaker will be CDR Emily Cathey, Commanding Officer of USS Independence (LCS-2). LCS-2 is one of the four designated test ships for the Littoral Class Ships. CDR Cathey will open our eyes to her world as the Commander of this unique ship and the first of its Class variant. Later in the same month we will hold our annual Enlisted Women of the Month luncheon that is part of a larger Department of Defense Women's History Month recognition program.

We are here to ensure the Council will carry on the Mission of the Navy League, and you should be proud of the efforts of a small number of incredible people who are volunteering their time to make sure that happens.

Stay tuned for more updates and enjoy the rest of the great articles and information in this Newsletter! Thank you for your support.

Jon Berg-Johnsen

President

Don't forget that special someone.



Happy Valentine's Day!

ON THIS DATE IN...

FEBRUARY

Feb 1, 1968 – The Tet Offensive began in Vietnam.

Feb 4, 1959 – Keel laying of *USS Enterprise*, the first nuclear powered aircraft carrier at Newport News, VA.

Feb 5, 1854 – Dedication of the first chapel built on Navy property at Annapolis, MD.

Feb 9, 1948 – The first Marine helicopters were delivered to the Marine Corps.

Feb 10, 1992 – Retired Coast Guard Chief Journalist Alex Haley, internationally noted author and the first person to ever hold that rate in the Coast Guard, died of a heart attack.

Feb 13, 1943 – The U.S. Marine Corps Women's Reserve was formed.

Feb 14 – HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!!!

Feb 15, 1998 – One hundred twenty years ago on this date, 28 Marines and 232 seamen lost their lives when the battleship *Maine* was mysteriously sunk by an explosion in the harbor of Havana, Cuba.

Feb 19, 1941 – Coast Guard Reserve is established.

Feb 19, 1945 – The 4th and 5th Marine Divisions, supported by naval gunfire, stormed ashore at Iwo Jima. The island was secured on 16 March.

Feb 19 – HAPPY PRESIDENT'S DAY!!!

Feb 20, 1962 – LtCol John Glenn, USMC, becomes the first American to orbit the Earth.

Feb 22, 1974 – LTJG Barbara Ann Allen becomes the first Navy designated female aviator.

Feb 23, 1945 – Four days after the initial landing, Marines and a Navy corpsman raise the flag on Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima.

Feb 24, 1987 – Coast Guard attorney LCDR Robert W. Bruce, Jr. became the first member of the armed forces to argue a case before the Supreme Court in uniform when he represented the Coast Guard in *Solorio vs. United States*.

Feb 25, 1933 – The commissioning of *USS Ranger*, the first true aircraft carrier.

Feb 26, 1811 – Congress authorizes the first naval hospital.

Feb 28, 1991 – Operation Desert Storm ended.

**Commander Michael H. Toth
Prospective Commanding Officer | Littoral Combat Ship Crew 213**

A native of North Ridgeville, Ohio, Commander Michael H. Toth enlisted in the Navy in 1986 and was commissioned in 1999 upon completion of the Enlisted Commissioning Program. Commander Toth graduated from Old Dominion University in 1999 and has served in a variety of sea and shore commands.

His sea assignments include Engineer Supervisor on USS Alexandria (SSN 757); Radiological Controls Shift Supervisor on USS L. Y. Spear (AS 36) and USS Hunsley (AS 31); Training Officer and Navigator on USS Ramage (DDG 61); First Lieutenant on USS Ashland (LSD 48); Operations Officer on USS Ponce (LPD 15); Combat Systems Officer on AFSB(I) Ponce; and Executive Officer onboard USS Whidbey Island (LSD 41).

His shore assignments include Surface Gunnery Officer at Surface Warfare Development Group and Antiterrorism Operations Officer at United States Fleet Forces Command.

He currently serves as the Commanding Officer of Littoral Combat Ship Crew 213 in San Diego.

Commander Toth's personal awards include the Navy Commendation Medal and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.



USS OMAHA LCS-12 COMMISSIONING | SAN DIEGO, CA

The Littoral Combat Ship, USS Omaha (LCS-12) will be commissioned Saturday 3 February, 2018, Broadway Pier, San Diego, CA, at 1200, noon. The ship was constructed at Austal Shipyard, Mobile, AL. She was christened 19 Dec 2015, in Mobile. USS Omaha is of the Independence class LCS, with a distinctive tri hull design. Her engineering plant is comprised of gas turbine engines and diesels, for both propulsion and electricity. She has a fixed 55mm gun mounted forward. She can deploy an array of missile systems in containerized, compartmentalized fashion, too. Her propulsion is water jet, so no screws, or propellers. She also hosts a cyclonal bow thruster for easy maneuvering in tight spaces. The ship's sponsor is Ms. Susie Buffett of Omaha, NE. USS Omaha will have a Blue and Gold crew of 69 officers and crew. The ship will be homeported in of San Diego, CA. Initial intent is to base the ship in Singapore, with rotational crews in and out of San Diego. USS Omaha's mission set will be three-pronged, Surface, anti-submarine, and mine warfare. She will host a two-spot flight deck, and have the ability to support Special Operations forces, as well.



Commissioning events planning has been done in conjunction with San Diego Navy League membership, and a commissioning committee formed in Omaha over the past two years since christening. The Omaha commissioning committee members and invited guests look forward to visiting San Diego 1-4 Feb 2018 and participating in the various planned events surrounding the commissioning ceremony. We extend a heartfelt thank you to San Diego Navy League of the for your continual support and interest in USS Omaha (LCS-12).

Butch Kirkland, CDR, USN, (Ret),
President, NLUS, Nebraska Council



San Diego Council



2018 Enlisted Women of the Year

March 28, 2018

Town & Country Resort 11 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

VISA/MC: _____ Exp _____

Company (for table sponsorship) _____

Address: _____

I would like to be a sponsor. (Please check appropriate sponsorship)

_____ Table Sponsor: \$400 (Four seats for my use)

_____ Flower Sponsor: \$300

_____ Individual tickets: \$40

_____ I'd like to sponsor a service member at \$40 each

MAIL TO: San Diego Council of the Navy League, 2115 Park Blvd., San Diego, CA 92101, Fax to (619) 230-0302 or go to our website, www.navyleague-sd.com for credit card purchases. For an invoice, please contact Jay Lott at (619) 230-0301 email: jay@navyleague-sd.com .

Strengthening our Military with the National Defense Authorization Act 2018

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) signed into law on December 12, 2017 authorizes FY2018 appropriations and sets forth policies for Department of Defense programs and activities, including military personnel strengths. It does not provide budget authority, which will be provided in subsequent appropriations legislation, and needs your support. The Navy League has prepared a statement applauding the bi-partisan actions and calls on our leaders to make this funding a reality, which you can personalize and send to your own Representatives by using the following link: <http://cqrcengage.com/navyleague/app/onestep-write-a-letter?2&engagementId=417593>.

This bill includes funding for readiness and spares, and also funds the Navy to make the 355-ship fleet a reality. The Congressional Budget Office has stated it will cost \$26.6 billion a year to achieve the fleet that the Navy needs, and the \$26.2 billion level approved by overwhelming, bipartisan majorities in both chambers of Congress brings us a step closer. The Navy and Marine Corps are overextended and underfunded, and must be able to ensure they are properly resourced to successfully carry out the missions with which they are tasked.

Please urge your Representatives to eliminate the funding caps forced on us by the Budget Control Act and appropriate funds that at least match the FY2018 National Defense Authorization Act by using the link above.



*Image: President Donald J. Trump, joined by Vice President Mike Pence and senior military leaders, signs H.R. 2810, the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2018, in the Roosevelt Room at the White House, Dec. 12, 2017. White House photo by Stephanie Chasz



The U.S. Coast Guard Needs You

The U.S. Coast Guard needs our help to rebuild, particularly after a grueling set of 2017 storms requiring significant Coast Guard efforts. Please send your representatives a note telling them you support the U.S. Coast Guard and requesting full supplemental funding of \$1 billion to recover from the unprecedented number of hurricanes. The Coast Guard needs to remain ready to be called upon at any moment, yet they continue to be underfunded. The Navy League provides a quick and easy tool to contact your representatives with a form letter to support this effort, which you can find here: <http://cqrcengage.com/navyleague/app/onestep-write-a-letter?0&engagementId=418275>.



Welcome Home

USS OMAHA (LCS-12), USS PORTLAND (LPD-27)



WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT *San Diego Corporate Members & Community Affiliates*

CORPORATE GOLD

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Booz Allen Hamilton
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Zeiders Enterprises

COMMUNITY AFFILIATES

CNRSW Morale, Welfare & Recreation
Falkner Winery
First Command Financial Services
Flagship Cruises & Events
Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego
North Island Credit Union
Northrop Grumman Corp.
Raytheon
RCP Block & Brick, Inc.
San Diego Copy
San Diego Padres Baseball Club
Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina
Town & Country Hotel
Veterans United Home Loans San Diego

San Diego Council,
Navy League Of The United States
2115 Park Boulevard
San Diego, CA 92101

Return Service Requested

Membership

Mark Your Calendar...

*THE MONTHLY BREAKFAST & LUNCH DATES AT
ADMIRAL BAKER CLUBHOUSE ARE LISTED BELOW:*

**BREAKFAST DATES
7:00 a.m - 8:30 a.m.**

February 2, 2018

March 2, 2018

April 6, 2018

May 4, 2018

June 1, 2018

July 13, 2018

August 3, 2018

September 14, 2018*

October 12, 2018*

November 2, 2018

December 7, 2018

** Denotes 2nd Friday of the month*

NEW MEMBERS

Bernard Attipoe	Omissa McMichael
Jasmine Beard	Phyllis Muex
Zelda Brown	Sally Musolino
Aaron Crandall	Sung Park
Daniel Diesso	Anthony Perkins
Tiffany Dukes	Nicholas Price
Clementine Fleuranvil	Syed Rahman
Marc Fomby	Richard Ramnarine
John Galeano	Denzel Tobius
Alanna Galiano	Jon Valestin
Timothy Grossglauser	Sarah Watson
Jada Johnson	Michael Whitson
Mica Jordan	Mya Wilson
Darrel Mack	

* Life Members
@ New Community Affiliate

Husband & Wife Members
^ Student
+ Active Duty Spouse

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

*We thank the following Corporate Members
& Community Affiliates for their continued
support:*

Falkner Wineries 14 years

Be a Navy League Volunteer

Volunteers are needed on committees all year long. If you would like to volunteer to help make an event successful, contact Jay Lott at 619-230-0301

CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGE

Have you moved? Changed your phone number, or Email Address?

WE VALUE YOUR OPINION

The San Diego Navy League takes pride in its publications and seeks to continually improve upon them. We welcome your comments.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Please send your letters on all subject matters concerning the Navy League or our brave service men and women directly to:

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You can make a difference and enroll on-line @ www.navyleague-sd.com!