



# BLUE & GOLD

Navy League Of The United States

San Diego Council

47-07 | July 2017

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JON BERG-JOHNSEN

As we close the first half of 2017, we come to the most special month of the year, July! Why so special, it's the month of our country's birthday! Yes, that simple fact always gets the patriotic blood stirring. Some are excited about the fireworks, and some are excited to watch the parade. For me it is the comfort knowing our country continues to be safe and secure because of the men and women that are serving here and around the world protecting our freedoms and liberty that was so hard earned 241 years ago.



Stepping back a few weeks I am reminded of the insightful and fascinating Breakfast talk by CAPT Joel Roos that taught us the history of his command, Naval Medical Center San Diego, which recently completing a century of service providing critical care for our fearless warfighters and keeping their families healthy. That same day we recognized our Marine Corps Recruiters of the Quarter. Frankly, they do their job so well we often take it for granted finding qualified applicants that can meet the high standards of physical and mental toughness is actually not so simple at all. Of course it also takes our sponsors like First Command who stepped up again to provide the necessary contributions to make it an extra special celebration for these Marines who work hard in their job, not for the recognition, not for \$50.00 Applebee's Card, but for pride in making sure every detail is taken care of.

Some other things to note, we renewed our Membership with the San Diego Regional Chamber and are moving out and expanding our campaign to get the word out about Navy League San Diego, and bring on new members, most who actually live in San Diego and want to be an active part of our Council. Also, by the time this message goes out, our Bylaws Committee will have finished their relentless task of reworking the rules for our Council that will start us somewhat anew and ensure we keep active members, reshaping the way we do our business and deliver an effect product of information about our Sea Services, emphasizing our Youth Programs, especially the Sea Cadets, and of course recognizing our service members.

All of our long standing events like the Navy Ball, this year a central part of San Diego Fleet Week, our Marine Birthday Luncheon, Family Support Group - Key Volunteers recognition, Miramar Air show Chalet, already sold out with our lead sponsor, and many others contributing, Spouse of the Year and Enlisted Women of the Year events are all still intact and going strong. I am also proud to say we have had a good year financially. That said, in this business it is never enough, so we always have to keep looking for additional donations to make our Homefront San Diego program keep delivering the help our service members need, and ensure we are able to keep our Welcome Home program the success it is!

Continued on page 3

## Breakfast Meeting July 7, 2017

7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

ADMIRAL BAKER CLUBHOUSE

GUEST SPEAKER

Rear Admiral Christian  
"Boris" Beckers

Commander, Space and Naval  
Warfare Systems Command

*“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same.”*

— Ronald Reagan Oct 27, 1964

## IN THIS ISSUE

President Message.....	Cover
Recognitions .....	2
9 Things You Many Not Know About the Declaration of Independence ..	3
On This Day .....	4
Ronald Reagan Messaged July 3, 1981 ..	5
Legislative Affairs .....	6
Breakfast Speaker.....	7
We Appreciate Your Support.....	7
Membership.....	8

# RECOGNITIONS



Council President Jon Berg-Johnsen presents a council ballcap to CAPT Joel Roos Commanding Officer, Naval Medical Center San Diego for being our June guest speaker.



(l-r) Bob Berman, VP Sea Services; Dan Cabrales, representing First Command Financial Planning our awards sponsor; Recruiting Station San Diego's Support Billet of the Quarter, Staff Sergeant Richard Forgeron; Recruiting Station San Diego's Sergeant Major, Sergeant Major Carlos Murcia and Council President, Jon Berg-Johnsen. Missing from the photo is Recruiting Station San Diego's Recruiter of the Quarter Staff Sergeant Martin P. Lopez.



VP Women's Activities, Joan Mitchell stands with the 9 graduating Sea Cadets from Point Loma High School.



The Council's *Blue & Gold* Newsletter is the 2016 Donald M. Mackie Newsletter Award winner for a Large Council.

Our grateful appreciation to Jeff McKinley, Tricia Berry and Eugene Abad at San Diego Copy.

Without all their hard work and assistance, obtaining this award would not have been possible.



A fitting way to end this message for a month of such powerful patriotic importance is to remind people about the Commissioning of the USS Rafael Peralta (DDG-115) on 29 July being held here in San Diego. This is very special event recognizing an incredibly courageous young Marine, a son of San Diego, Sgt. Rafael Peralta, who made the ultimate sacrifice of his life to save his fellow Marines lives in combat. Please go to our website, [navyleague-sd.com](http://navyleague-sd.com) or go to [peraltacommissioning.org](http://peraltacommissioning.org) and make a contribution, celebrate this incredible event and welcome the crew of the ship.

There still is much work to do and we need you to pitch in to support our Council. Join us. Get involved. You can make a difference!

Thank you—*Jon Berg-Johnsen*

## 9 THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

BY: ELIZABETH HARRISON JULY 4, 2012

Independence Day, or the Fourth of July, celebrates the adoption by the Continental Congress of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. On the 236th birthday of the United States, explore nine surprising facts about one of America's most important founding documents.



### 1. The Declaration of Independence wasn't signed on July 4, 1776.

On July 1, 1776, the Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia, and on the following day 12 of the 13 colonies voted in favor of Richard Henry Lee's motion for independence. The delegates then spent the next two days debating and revising the language of a statement drafted by Thomas Jefferson. On July 4, Congress officially adopted the Declaration of Independence, and as a result the date is celebrated as Independence Day. Nearly a month would go by, however, before the actual signing of the document took place. First, New York's delegates didn't officially give their support until July 9 because their home assembly hadn't yet authorized them to vote in favor of independence. Next, it took two weeks for the Declaration to be "engrossed"—written on parchment in a clear hand. Most of the delegates signed on August 2, but several—Elbridge

## ON THIS DATE IN...

JULY

**July 1, 1850** – Naval School at Annapolis rename Naval Academy.

**July 3, 2002** – The first of the Coast Guard's Maritime Safety and Security Teams (MSST's) was commissioned in Seattle, WA.

**July 4, 1776** – American colonies declare their independence from Great Britain.

**HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!!!**

*Fly your flag proudly!*

**July 6, 1976** – The first women enter the Naval Academy.

**July 7, 1948** – Six enlisted Navy WAVES, the first to transfer to the Regular Navy are sworn in.

**July 10, 1941** – The 2d Marine Aircraft Wing was commissioned at San Diego, CA.

**July 11, 1941** – Congress reconfirmed the military status of the Coast Guard, stating: "The Coast Guard shall be a military service and constitute a branch of the land and naval forces of the United States at all times and shall operate under the Treasury Department in time of peace and operate as part of the Navy, subject to the orders of the Secretary of the Navy, in time of war or when the President shall so direct."

**July 12, 1862** – The Medal of Honor is created.

**July 12, 1957** – President Dwight Eisenhower takes the first presidential ride in a helicopter.

**July 12, 1990** – Commander Rosemary B. Mariner becomes the first woman to command an operational aviation squadron (VAQ-34).

**July 14, 1945** – U.S. warships bombard Kamaishi, Japan; the first naval gunfire bombardment of Japanese home islands.

**July 20, 1969** – Former Navy pilot Neil Armstrong is the first man to set foot on the moon.

**July 23, 1993** – Sarah Deal becomes the first woman Marine selected for naval aviation training.

**July 25, 1947** – The Women's Reserve of the Coast Guard Reserves (SPARS) was disestablished.

**July 26, 1947** – The National Security of 1947 became effective, reaffirming the status of the Marine Corps as a separate military service within the Department of the Navy.

**July 26, 1948** – President Harry S. Truman orders desegregation of the Armed Services.

**July 27, 1953** – Korean War armistice is signed at Panmunjon, Korea and the Korean cease-fire went into effect at 10:00 p.m.

**July 28, 1918** – Marine Brigadier General John A. Lejeune assumed command of the 2d Division, U. S. Army in France, and remained in that capacity until August 1919.

**July 29, 1846** – Sailors and Marines from U.S. sloop *Cyane* capture San Diego, CA.

**July 30, 1942** – President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs act establishing WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service).

**July 31, 1912** – First attempt to launch an airplane by catapult made at Annapolis, MD.

Gerry, Oliver Wolcott, Lewis Morris, Thomas McKean and Matthew Thornton—signed on a later date. (Two others, John Dickinson and Robert R. Livingston, never signed at all.) The signed parchment copy now resides at the National Archives in the Rotunda for the Charters of Freedom, alongside the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

## **2. More than one copy exists.**

After the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, the “Committee of Five”—Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman and Robert R. Livingston—was charged with overseeing the reproduction of the approved text. This was completed at the shop of Philadelphia printer John Dunlap. On July 5, Dunlap’s copies were dispatched across the 13 colonies to newspapers, local officials and the commanders of the Continental troops. These rare documents, known as “Dunlap broadsides,” predate the engrossed version signed by the delegates. Of the hundreds thought to have been printed on the night of July 4, only 26 copies survive. Most are held in museum and library collections, but three are privately owned.

## **3. When news of the Declaration of Independence reached New York City, it started a riot.**

By July 9, 1776, a copy of the Declaration of Independence had reached New York City. With hundreds of British naval ships occupying New York Harbor, revolutionary spirit and military tensions were running high. George Washington, commander of the Continental forces in New York, read the document aloud in front of City Hall. A raucous crowd cheered the inspiring words, and later that day tore down a nearby statue of George III. The statue was subsequently melted down and shaped into more than 42,000 musket balls for the fledgling American army.

## **4. Eight of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence were born in Britain.**

While the majority of the members of the Second Continental Congress were native-born Americans, eight of the men voting for independence from Britain were born there. Gwinnett Button and Robert Morris were born in England, Francis Lewis was born in Wales, James Wilson and John Witherspoon were born in Scotland, George Taylor and Matthew Thornton were born in Ireland and James Smith hailed from Northern Ireland.

## **5. One signer later recanted.**

Richard Stockton, a lawyer from Princeton, New Jersey, became the only signer of the Declaration of Independence to recant his support of the revolution. On November 30, 1776, the hapless delegate was captured by the British and thrown in jail. After months of harsh treatment and meager rations, Stockton repudiated his signature on the Declaration of Independence and swore his allegiance to King George III.

A broken man when he regained his freedom, he took a new oath of loyalty to the state of New Jersey in December 1777.

## **6. There was a 44-year age difference between the youngest and oldest signers.**

The oldest signer was Benjamin Franklin, 70 years old when he scrawled his name on the parchment. The youngest was Edward Rutledge, a lawyer from South Carolina who was only 26 at the time. Rutledge narrowly beat out fellow South Carolinian Thomas Lynch Jr., just four months his senior, for the title.

## **7. Two additional copies have been found in the last 25 years.**

In 1989, a Philadelphia man found an original Dunlap Broadside hidden in the back of a picture frame he bought at a flea market for \$4. One of the few surviving copies from the official first printing of the Declaration, it was in excellent condition and sold for \$8.1 million in 2000. A 26th known Dunlap broadside emerged at the British National Archives in 2009, hidden for centuries in a box of papers captured from American colonists during the Revolutionary War. One of three Dunlap broadsides at the National Archives, the copy remains there to this day.

## **8. The Declaration of Independence spent World War II in Fort Knox.**

On December 23, 1941, just over two weeks after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the signed Declaration, together with the Constitution, was removed from public display and prepared for evacuation out of Washington, D.C. Under the supervision of armed guards, the founding document was packed in a specially designed container, latched with padlocks, sealed with lead and placed in a larger box. All told, 150 pounds of protective gear surrounded the parchment. On December 26 and 27, accompanied by Secret Service agents, it traveled by train to Louisville, Kentucky, where a cavalry troop of the 13th Armored Division escorted it to Fort Knox. The Declaration was returned to Washington, D.C., in 1944.

## **9. There is something written on the back of the Declaration of Independence.**

In the movie “National Treasure,” Nicholas Cage’s character claims that the back of the Declaration contains a treasure map with encrypted instructions from the founding fathers, written in invisible ink. Unfortunately, this is not the case. There is, however, a simpler message, written upside-down across the bottom of the signed document: “Original Declaration of Independence dated 4th July 1776.” No one knows who exactly wrote this or when, but during the Revolutionary War years the parchment was frequently rolled up for transport. It’s thought that the text was added as a label.



# MESSAGE ON THE OBSERVANCE OF INDEPENDENCE DAY JULY 3, 1981

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## RONALD REAGAN 40TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Today, all over America, families and friends are reuniting to renew ties, enjoy each other's company, and celebrate our Nation's birthday. It is a day when liberty and laughter go hand in hand—when we can acknowledge that, oh yes, we have our faults, and lots of problems, too, but we're happy and proud because we're free, and we know the best of America is yet to be.

If you close your eyes and try to picture our country, chances are the first thing you'll see is your own hometown. I always see mine, Dixon and Tampico in Illinois. Today it is the hometowns of America, both big and small, that remind us what a diverse yet united country we are. Each in its own special way will carry out a wish expressed by one of the Founding Fathers 205 years ago.

Back in 1776, John Adams wrote his wife Abigail that the anniversary of our independence should be observed with great fanfare: "... with pomp and parades . . . shows and games . . . and sports and guns and bells . . . with bonfires and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, and from this time forevermore."

Well, Mr. Adams, rest assured that what you wanted is being done. Your traditions are now ours, and we guard them like national treasures. And you know why. When we unfurl our flags, strike up the bands, and light up the skies each July 4th, we celebrate the most exciting, ongoing adventure in human freedom the world has ever known.

It began in 1620 when a group of courageous families braved a mighty ocean to build a new future in a new world. They came not for material gain, but to secure liberty for their souls within a community bound by laws.

A century-and-a-half later, their descendants pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor to found this Nation. Some would forfeit their fortunes and their lives, but none sacrificed honor.

Thomas Jefferson wrote that on that day of America's birth, in the little hall in Philadelphia, debate raged for hours, but the issue remained in doubt. These were honorable men; still, to sign a Declaration of Independence seemed such an irretrievable act that the walls resounded with cries of "treason" and "the headsman's axe."

Then, it is said, one unknown man rose to speak. He was neither young, nor strong in voice; yet, he spoke with such conviction that he mesmerized the hall. He cited the grievances that had brought them to this moment. Then, his voice failing, he said: "They may turn every tree into a gallows, every hole into a grave, and yet the words of that parchment can never die. To the mechanic in the workshop, they will speak hope, to the slave in the mines, freedom. Sign that parchment. Sign



if the next moment the noose is around your neck, for that parchment will be the textbook of freedom, the bible of the rights of man forever." And sign they did.

What makes our revolution unique and so exciting, then, is that it changed the very concept of government. Here was a new nation telling the world that it was conceived in liberty; that all men are created equal with God-given rights, and that power ultimately resides in "We the people."

We sometimes forget this great truth, and we never should, because putting people first has always been America's secret weapon. It's the way we've kept the spirit of our revolution alive—a spirit that drives us to dream and dare, and take great risks for a greater good. It's the spirit of Fulton and Ford, the Wright brothers and Lindbergh, and of all our astronauts. It's the spirit of Joe Louis, Babe Ruth, and a million others who may have been born poor, but who would not be denied their day in the Sun.

Well, I'm convinced that we're getting that spirit back. The Nation is pulling together. We're looking to the future with new hope and confidence—and we know we can make America great again by putting the destiny of this Nation back in the hands of the people. And why shouldn't we? Because, after all, we are Americans.

As Dwight Eisenhower once said: "There is nothing wrong with America that the faith, love of freedom, intelligence and energy of her citizens cannot cure."

He was right. If we just stick together, and remain true to our ideals, we can be sure that America's greatest days lie ahead.

Happy Fourth of July!

## SUPPORT THE FOOD FOR PEACE PROGRAM

The Food for Peace legislation was signed into law July 10, 1954 under President Eisenhower. For more than 60 years, the USAID Office of Food for Peace (FFP) provides life-saving food assistance to vulnerable populations and reduces hunger and malnutrition so that all people at all times have access to sufficient food for healthy and productive lives. An estimated 3 billion hungry people have been reached since its inception.

Other benefits of the Food for Peace food aid program is that it is one of our most important cargo preference programs. It creates quality jobs for American mariners



during peacetime, provides an efficient and cost-effective means of maintaining essential national defense sealift readiness capability, and it serves as a transparent, reliable, and time-tested tool for fulfilling America's diplomatic and humanitarian objectives. The FY18 budget request zeroes out this program.

In 2016, conflict and the El Nino caused a 40% increase in acute food insecurity compared to 2015. This year, all signs point to similar and potentially greater levels of need. America is the largest donor of food assistance in the world, and proudly displays "from the American people" on all Food for Peace donations. This program has not only proven vital to recipients, but also to U.S. national security. In a letter to House and Senate leadership on February 27, over 120 generals and admirals showed their support for USAID funding as it helps in "preventing conflict." Importantly, past recipient countries have "graduated" from receiving assistance to donating assistance, and all have since become trading partners.



In order to protect American jobs and help those in need, please support the Food for Peace Program by contacting your President, Representatives, and Senators and let them know you support funding for the program. The Navy League has a letter you can email to your politicians in one step by visiting: <http://cqrcengage.com/navyleague/app/onestep-write-a-letter?0&engagementId=330613>

## PROPOSED CALIFORNIA BILL SB 156 MILITARY & VETERANS: TRANSITION ASSISTANCE FOR CITIZENSHIP

SB 156, authored by Senator Joel Anderson (R), requires the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) and the California National Guard (CNG) to provide specified assistance to military-affiliated noncitizens to support their acquisition of United States citizenship. Current legislation requires CalVet to develop a transition assistance program to help California veterans successfully transition from military to civilian life. This bill includes a transition assistance program to provide information and assistance to the specified classes of persons on how to acquire U.S. citizenship to include:

- Noncitizens currently serving on active duty, who are leaving military service while stationed in California.
- Noncitizens, who have previously been discharged from military service.

And to assist these noncitizens who request this assistance in filling out the necessary forms and paperwork to become United States citizens.

The bill is currently supported by the American Legion – Department of California, AMVETS – Department of California, Military Officers Association of America, California Council of Chapters and the American G.I. Forum of California. To view the details and status of this bill and all California legislation, please visit: [http://www.legislature.ca.gov/bill\\_information.html](http://www.legislature.ca.gov/bill_information.html)

**Rear Admiral Christian “Boris” Becker  
Commander, Space and Naval Warfare  
Systems Command**

Rear Adm. Christian “Boris” Becker, a native of New York City, graduated in 1987 from Boston University with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering and was commissioned from the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps program. He holds a Master of Science in Project Management from The George Washington University and completed the Executive Fellows program at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government.

Becker’s operational assignments include serving as an EA-6B Prowler electronic counter measures officer, weapons school instructor and on staffs afloat and ashore. He is a plankowner of Joint Crew Composite Squadron 1, a special mission unit created to apply electronic warfare in the fight against improvised explosive devices.

A member of the Aerospace Engineering Duty Officer Community and Space Cadre, he held positions supporting both Naval Air Systems Command and Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR). Assignments include serving as a systems engineer and deputy division chief at the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), supporting and global communications network and at the Integrated Strike Planning and Execution Systems Program Office (PMA-281) at Naval Air Station Patuxent River as the chief engineer.

As the program manager for a national security space program at the NRO, he led inter-agency and joint forces providing national, joint and naval forces operational and intelligence information. He also served as the commander, SPAWAR Space Field Activity leading Navy civilians and Sailors assigned to the NRO. Following this tour Becker served as the principal deputy program executive officer (PEO) for Enterprise Information Systems. His first flag officer assignment was as PEO C4I and PEO Space Systems from July 2013 to February 2017.

In March 2017, Becker assumed command of SPAWAR where he leads a global workforce of 10,500 civilian and military personnel who design, develop and deploy advanced communications and information capabilities.

He has been recognized as the Department of the Navy’s Acquisition Professional of the Year and the Intelligence Community Major Program Manager of the Year. Personal awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit and various unit, and service awards. In addition, he was awarded the NRO Gold Medal for Distinguished Service.

**CORPORATE GOLD**

BAE Systems  
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DRS Technologies, Inc.  
General Atomics  
Lockheed Martin  
Northrop Grumman Corp.  
Raytheon Company

**CORPORATE MEMBERS**

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HP Enterprises  
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Rockwell Collins  
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**COMMUNITY AFFILIATES**

CNRSW Morale, Welfare & Recreation  
Falkner Winery  
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Loews Coronado Bay Resort  
Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego  
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North Island Credit Union  
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The Marine Group Boat Works  
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USS Midway Museum  
Veterans United Home Loans San Diego  
Wyndham San Diego Bayside

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.**

**July 7, 2017**

**August 4, 2017**

**September 8, 2017 Second Friday**

**October 6, 2017**

**November 3, 2017**

**December 1, 2017**

**No lunch meetings until further  
notice.**

### NEW MEMBERS

Kristal Baker	Mohsin Rashid
Mark Baritz	Kathryn Richardson
Juan Campbell	Judith Rye
Raymond Cintron	Angela Sanders
Tequira Fair	Janice Sifford
Gordon Hemping	Roseann Stevenson
Cassandra Jacobs	Nikkole Vaughn
Rondi Kirkland	Erick Viera
Michele Lovece	Domonique Whitmill
Teneshia Muhammad	Kelly Wilkerson
Lacey Norton	Kenneth Wilson
Cuong Pham	Sandra Wilson

\* 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:*

**Booz Allen Hamilton**                      **21 years**  
**Raytheon**    **27 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](http://www.navyleague-sd.com)!