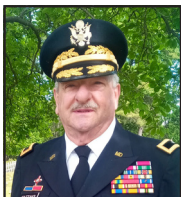




ALL AHEAD FULL

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BALTIMORE COUNCIL, NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

FALL 2024



FROM THE BRIDGE

Greetings All!

It has been an active summer for our Baltimore Council NLUS as will be documented in full detail in the articles that follow this message.

Our support of Coast Guard personnel involved in response to the Francis Scott Key bridge disaster have been warmly received. Parenthetically, the ship that killed the bridge, MV Dali, has finally sailed for the Far East after undergoing repairs in Norfolk. And even as plans are finalized for a new multi-billion-dollar bridge across the mouth of Baltimore Harbor, a \$100,000,000 damage suit has been brought against the vessel's owners and operators.

Our officers and board members have been out and about for a number of important events during the summer. We were at the Naval Reserve Center (formerly the NOSC) as, with Sea Cadets participation, a change of command took place. We were present at the Inner Harbor, on board USS Constellation, with the Secretary of the Navy and other dignitaries, as he announced plans for a new submarine that will bear a proud old name. We also learned, from various sources, about problems in creating a new class of badly needed surface ships for the fleet.

There were awards to be presented and plans to be made in the continued pursuit of our mission. And actions in support of the next generation of sea service personnel through the Sea Cadets program and Junior ROTC units at local and regional high schools.

We are always looking for patriotic citizens to

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Bravo Zulu Special Awards



Thursday, 26 September was a celebratory day in the chief's mess at the U.S. Coast Guard Yard in Baltimore. It was there and then that two of the non-commissioned officers of the Surface Forces Logistics Center received the accolades they'd earned time and again in the performance of their duties and their contributions to the community while off duty. The Navy League was well represented by Council President Joe Nattans, Treasurer Chris Costello, CG Liaison Bruce Copeland, and V.P. Alan Walden who brought with them special certificates of merit and monetary gifts for the honorees.

CAPT Andrew Pecora, CO of the SFLC, presided as



Trenkler and Pecora



Loving and Pecora



(l to R) Trenkler, Nattans, Loving and Copeland

ET1 Benjamin Trenkler was official designated Enlisted Person of the Quarter (2024) and SK1 Shawn Loving as Enlisted Person of the Year (2023). It wasn't an overly long ceremony; short on speeches. But the feeling of comradeship and celebration was obvious. The men and women of the Coast Guard care deeply about what they do and how they do it. And both petty officers Loving and Trenkler are at the forefront of that commitment.

The various units/commands at Curtis Bay, the only Coast Guard Yard in the United States of which CAPT Pecora is the senior officer, perform a variety of singularly important services to the fleet as is apparent to anyone fortunate enough to visit the site; as witness their response to the Francis Scott Key Bridge disaster earlier this year which was both instantaneous and immeasurable. ⚓

The Silent Service Name That Ship

By Alan Walden

She doesn't exist yet. But when, eventually, she sails, on and under the sea, she will bear a proud and historic name; one that will resonate here more than anywhere else.

The official announcement came in a 20 September ceremony on the foredeck of USS Constellation, the 19th Century sloop of war that occupies a place of honor at Pier One of Baltimore's Inner Harbor. Mayor Brandon Scott was there. So were Senator Ben Cardin, Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen Hicks, and Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro. He was he who announced plans for a new warship, a nuclear-powered attack boat (submarine) designated SSN 814. Her name – USS BALTIMORE!

The speeches were all about history and sea power; the need to project our mastery of the depths of the oceans to friend and foe alike; Baltimore's past as one of the nation's most important seaports and ship building centers. About one of the first frigates, USF Constellation, built for the fledgling United States Navy right here at Fells Point; about



SecNav Del Toro the Liberty Ships and landing craft during WWII.

Baltimore Council President Joe Nattans and I were among the invited guests as representatives of the Navy League. And, as the event concluded, Deputy SecDef Hicks, introduced earlier as honorary sponsor of the boat, adhered to tradition by making the first cut in a ceremonial cake with a naval officer's sword.

The new submarine will be the sixth vessel and the second SSN to bear the name Baltimore.



(L to R) Cardin, Del Toro, Hicks and Scott



Less agreeable news came from SecNav Del Toro earlier in the month. The lead ship of the new Constellation Class of frigates will be a year later than earlier projected for delivery because of a personnel shortage at the Wisconsin yard where she's being built. Andy Bosak, deputy manager for the frigate program says Fincantieri Marinette Marine currently is short by several hundred people across both the blue and white collar workforce. The deadline now for the new vessel is 2027. ⚓

From the Bridge Continued from page 1

join us in our 122 year-long mission of support to the men and women of the Navy, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Merchant Marine, and the nation and people they serve so well. If you are grateful to them and seek a way to show that gratitude, we have a place for you.

Wishing all a successful Fall season and good health for a lifetime. ⚓

Joe
B.G. Arthur J. Nattans, US
Army (Ret.)
President, Baltimore Council
Life Member Navy League of
the United States
"Freedom isn't Free!"

Welcome Aboard New Faces of 2024

Baltimore Council Treasurer Chris Costello was our man on point at the Navy Reserve Center on 14 September for the latest change of command. In a traditional ceremony, with Vice Admiral Nancy Lacore, Chief of Naval Reserve, presiding, Captain Motale Efimba who, for the past two years, has been a stalwart supporter of the Navy League and the Sea Cadets unit we sponsor and support, turned over the helm to Commander Ernest Jessop. For the next two years it is he who will direct all activities and assignments for the hundreds of men and women assigned to the NRC at Whetstone Point, adjacent to Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine. On behalf of the Baltimore Council, Treasurer Costello presented to



Sea Cadets Color Guard



Costello and Jessop

the new CO a book that outlines all there is to see and do in Baltimore.

To "Mo" Efimba go our warmest wishes for "fair winds and following seas." And to CDR Jessop our equally warm welcome in the hope that, as has happened so many times in the past, a strong working relationship and bond of friendship will be built between us. ⚓

Flashback

Retrospective on the Main Event

As promised in the last issue of this publication back we go to the celebration of Fleet Week in Baltimore, one of the seminal maritime events of the year in a city founded by seafaring adventurers and forever bound to the waters that touch its shores. The pictures, beginning with the opening ceremony, tell the story of the events that took place. We hope you enjoy them. ⚓



RDML Tom Moninger and Council President Joe Nattans



Gov. Wes Moore and Council VP Alan Walden



Opening Ceremony



On the Light Street promenade



F-35 over the harbor



Council Pres. Joe Nattans and CAPT Gil McCarthy



USS Marinette (LCS-25)



(L to R) CAPT Sam Howard (USN-ret.), Alan Walden, CDR/CO Janet Broome, ENS Mercer Howard, Lari Howard



Party time on USS Ft. Lauderdale (LSD-28)



Board VP Walden and JAG Molly Seeman

Sea Cadets

The Jarhead Factor

When most people see the words “Sea Cadets” they envision our young best and brightest learning the traditional Naval customs and courtesies, with a dash of training in aviation, ship handling, or medical professions. One vital component overlooked by the Sea Cadets is the other side of the Department of the Navy, the United States Marine Corps. That is what Fort McHenry Division and Training Ship Constellation, stationed in Baltimore, have been focusing on.

For the past three months, these cadets have been learning the basics of Marine Corps rifle drill, HIIT (High Intensity Interval Training) PT sessions, search and rescue, and squad tactics. The training also allows the cadets ample opportunity to demonstrate leadership and accountability of themselves and their gear, and to find their voice, all while building comradery within their respective divisions through the use of competitions between fire teams. “Nothing beats opening up our cadets more to their environments than getting them out there in the dirt, moving their own formations” said program creator Instructor Liam Scully. The program’s goals focus on promoting individual leadership, increased fitness, and increasing the level of competence and discipline within Fort McHenry Division.

And it shows. ⚓



HEADS UP Save the Date

As always, the Baltimore Council will gather on the first Wednesday in December for its Annual Meeting and Banquet. And this year’s event is bound to be extraordinary as we party hearty at the Center Club, one of Baltimore’s most celebrated dining venues. You’ll be receiving an invitation to this always festive affair in a separate mailing.

In the meantime save the date, 4 December, and make your plans accordingly. All are welcome. ⚓

“Happy” Days

She Will Be Missed

For many years this council was well served by someone who, though not one of its members, became part of the Navy League family. Her name says it all: Happy Riley. For decades the director of congregation services at St. Stephen's Anglican Church where this council holds its meetings, Happy was more than happy to provide whatever we needed. She ordered our lunches, made sure we had the tables and chairs we required, and became pretty much as indispensable to us as she was to the church.

When Happy retired this past spring the church hierarchy and congregation decided to salute her with a surprise party. And, believe me, she was truly gobsmacked when confronted and enveloped by a small army of friends and family.

Nor did the Baltimore Council miss the opportunity to make abundantly clear its deep and abiding gratitude for all she had done. Acting Vice President Alan Walden, who owes her a special vote of thanks for an unofficial service she performed on his behalf, was there to present to Happy a certificate bestowing upon her an honorary and permanent membership in the Navy League of the United States.

Happily, Happy will enjoy her retirement nearby. We hope to see more of her. ⚓



Riley and Walden

Just for Fun

Home Improvement

If you're a carrier sailor or member of the air crew and are considering the installation of a new bathroom at your home ashore, here's just the thing. You'll be the envy of all your seafaring neighbors; maybe even those who've never sailed on anything other than a cruise ship. And think of all the fun you can have while languishing in the water. C'mon, boys and girls. You know you want one. ⚓



Coming Up

- 10/3 Rosh Hashannah begins at sundown
- 10/12 Yom Kippur
- 10/31 Halloween
- 11/5 Election Day (show the colors)
- 11/11 Veterans Day (show the colors)
- 11/28 Thanksgiving
- 12/4 Annual Meeting and Banquet at the Center Club
- 12/7 Pearl Harbor Day (1941)
- 12/15 Bill of Rights Day (show the colors)
- 12/25 Christmas Day
Hanukkah begins at Sundown
- 12/31 New Year's Eve
- 1/1 Welcome to 2025

Remembering Our Mission

The NAVY LEAGUE came into being in 1902 with the express purpose "to enlighten the people on naval matters and tell them what a Navy means to the country and what it ought to mean to them."

We have always conveyed the philosophy of two of our founders, PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT and ADMIRAL ALFRED THAYER MAHAN that America is a maritime nation and that a strong Navy is the most cost-effective means of ensuring peace.

PRIDE • SERVICE • PATRIOTISM

From the Editor

As always comments and observations regarding this publication are welcomed. They may be sent to the editor at arwmedia@aol.com and/or posted in the comments section on our web site: www.navyleaguebaltimore.org. You are also invited to visit the web site to peruse past copies of All Ahead Full and find out more about the Navy League, the Baltimore Council, and our 120 year old mission in support of the sea services.



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