



ALL AHEAD FULL

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

FALL 2026



FROM THE BRIDGE

Important news for all. The Baltimore Council is growing through (CAM) the Community Affiliate Membership program. This is the perfect opportunity to enlist commercial industries and companies into the council's efforts to fulfill our basic mission of support for the sea services. As an example, a new member of CAM already works with the Coast Guard in dealing with the heavy burden the USCG carries at Curtis Bay. And that's just the beginning.

As a member of CAM you, and we, can help build and maintain the vital connection with corporate and business members by improving communications to find out what assistance is needed and how it may be provided. And that's not all. Membership has other benefits.

Have you ever wanted to see a tugboat up close? Have you ever wondered what it's like on the bridge of a ship passing through the Panama Canal? How about learning, in person, about the operation of a floating drydock. It all part of the plan as we pursue our goals and objectives. And there's more. You could have a chance to observe our Sea Cadets on a drill weekend, or attend a class with JROTC cadets. You may even be encouraged to peak a young person's interest in joining one of the youth programs we sponsor and support.

It's all part and parcel of the Community Affiliate Membership (CAM) program we'd like you to consider. You'd be more than welcome aboard. ⚓

*Bruce Copeland
Council President & Life Member*

Happy Birthday, America! 250 Years and Counting



Bruce Copeland and Joe Nattans

By Alan Walden

Rarely, if ever, has there been a bigger, brighter, and more festive celebration than that which took place in and around Baltimore Harbor in the early summer of 2026 as the United States marked its 250th birthday. The pictures (many of which were provided by Sail Baltimore and other sources) tell the story. The ships, both



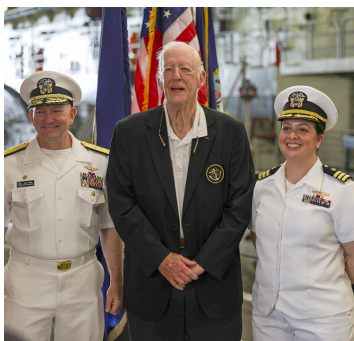
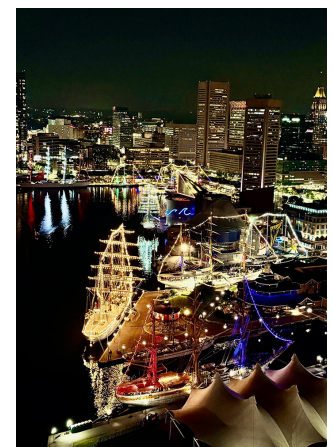
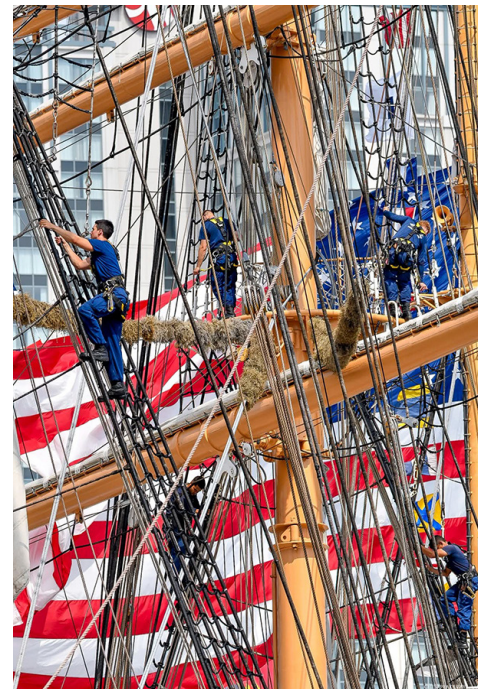
sail and steel, their crews, the aircraft, not only ours but from other nations as well, the tens of thousands of people who were witness to the festivities, all came together

Happy Birthday, America! Continued from page 1

for the better part of a week in late June cum early July.



The Baltimore Council had a special contribution to provide. President Bruce Copeland arranged with the Navy and Sail Baltimore to become co-host of a by- invitation-only group of special guests on board USS Arlington (LPD-24), a San Antonio Class dock landing ship. Those who attended included a pantheon of executives from the most important maritime related companies in our neighborhood; Jonathan Steinberg, general manager of Moran Towing, Captain Eric Nielsen of the Maryland Pilots Association, Ryan Lynch of General Ship Repair, Sean and Elizabeth Lynch of Black Sea Technologies and many others. Our council president chaired the event with RADM David Faehnle, Commandant of Naval District Washington and CDR Jaclyn Salvatini, executive officer of the ship, and there were four other officers of this council on board including the treasurer, secretary, and JAG. ⚓



RADM Faehnle, Copeland, CDR Salvatini

All On Board

Marking the Spot

Better Late Than Never

An annual waterborne ceremony was delayed somewhat this year because of the celebration of the nation's 250th anniversary. So it wasn't until mid-July that the Coast Guard buoy tender James Rankin (WLM-555) finally set out to place the Francis Scott Key buoy at the entrance to the Inner Harbor at the spot from which Francis Scott Key watched the bombardment of Fort McHenry in 1814 and wrote the poem that became the lyrics of our National Anthem.

It was, as always, a festive occasion as the crew played host to dozens of guests, including members of the board of the Baltimore Council. The galley overflowed with fine food and drink and a representative of the National Park Service was there to tell the tale of the enemy's failed attempt to invade Baltimore City and the moment at which the Star-Spangled Banner was hoisted in defiance "o'er the ramparts." All on board stood at attention as the



Better Late Than Never

marker was lifted from its cradle and, with appropriate reverence, lowered to its place of honor, there to remain throughout the summer.

It didn't take long before Key's poem, titled "The Defense of Fort McHenry," was set to the music of an old English drinking

song. It would, however, be more than a century before it was officially designated as the Anthem. ⚓

New Faces of 2026

At The Helm

Officers of the Baltimore Council were front and center in July to greet the new commanding officer of the Surface Forces Logistics Center at Curtis Bay. Council President Bruce Copeland, Vice President Joe Nattans, and council member Mike Houck all attended the official Change of Command Ceremony as Captain Robert Mohr succeeded Captain Andrew Pecora who, for the past two years, had established a strong working relationship between the Coast Guard and this unit of the Navy League.



New Faces of 2026

CAPT Mohr is characterized in his official bio as "an experienced Officer with a proven history of working in the military industry. A balanced

leader, skilled in naval engineering, shipboard sustainment, project management, shipboard operations, and operational logistics; a strong professional with Master of Science degrees

in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and National Resource Strategy."

In this role Mohr is responsible for providing all life-cycle engineering, maintenance, information services, logistics, cyber security, and supply services to the U.S. Coast Guard's surface fleet, which consists of over 225 cutters (ships) and over 1,700 small boats. SFLC's geographically distributed workforce of approximately

1,800 employees (civilian, military active duty, and reservists) works from 27 locations around the globe, including the USCG's only full-service shipyard, located here in Baltimore. ⚓

Party Hearty

Save the Date

By Alan Walden

The time is fast approaching for one of the Baltimore Council's seminal events of the year. On Wednesday, 2 December 2026 a grand time is promised to all who attend the Annual Meeting and Banquet. This year's event will return to an old and treasured venue: The Eagle's Nest Country Club in Baltimore County where a fine dinner is guaranteed amidst the panoply of the season, business will be conducted swiftly, and a star-studded guest speaker will be on deck to inform and entertain the audience. Two stars, to be precise.

RADM (Rear Admiral) Victor C. See, Jr., US Navy (retired) is an executive with over 40 years

of experience in Aerospace, Aviation, and Information Technology. He is the Government Security Committee Chairman on the boards of two Space companies, TELESAT Government Solutions, and CesiumAstro Space and Defense Systems.

RADM See is a 1980 graduate of the United States Naval Academy with a BS in Physics/Oceanography (and baseball) and a 1989 graduate of the Naval



RADM See

Postgraduate School with an MS in Aeronautical Engineering. He is a certified Defense Acquisition Level III Program Manager from the Defense Systems Management College.

One recent accomplishment of which he is most proud was as co-chair of the commissioning committee for the Arleigh Burke Class destroyer USS Carl M. Levin (DDG-120) during which he worked with a talented team of professionals from the Baltimore

Council of the Navy League and five of his Naval Academy classmates. Secretary of the Navy the Honorable Carlos Del Toro was the guest speaker at the commissioning in Baltimore on 24 June 2023, which also, by coincidence, was RADM See's birthday (and the day he started on Medicare).

Eagle's Nest is located at 12801 Stone Hill Road (off Dulaney Valley Road) in Phoenix, MD 21131. Telephone: (410) 252-8484.

All members of the Baltimore Council and their families and like-minded friends are urged to make your reservations without delay. It promises to be an event you don't want to miss. ⚓

Next Generation

Sea Cadet Summer



They drilled, they performed, they played. The Spring/Summer season was anything but dull for the Ft. McHenry Division of the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps. Sponsored and supported by the Baltimore Council of the

Navy League these young men and women had little time to waste.

Under to watchful guidance of their officers and U.S. Navy Reserve instructors there were classes to attend, special events



at which their presence was both welcome and acknowledged, and plenty of time to sweat at the kind of outdoor play designed to foster teamwork and physical wellbeing.

Though not all may later choose



to become members of the Armed Forces it is unlikely that any of them will ever forget their time in uniform and why those who wear it merit both the respect and admiration of the citizens of these United States. ⚓

Happy Times

The Reunion

By Alan Walden

One of this year's highlights at the mountain chalet in Western Massachusetts, where Lois and I spend the summer months, was a visit from two close friends; both nautical and nice.

CAPT Sam Howard, USN-ret. and his wife, Lari Roberts, scrambled their very hectic schedule to make the long drive up from Virginia Beach and spend an idyllic weekend lakeside in the Berkshires. (They were due in Japan the following week for a reunion with their son, also a naval officer, who'd been at sea for several months.) Sam, as I've mentioned in the past, is no stranger to the Baltimore Council. Still active as an instructor/mentor for junior officers, he's been in Baltimore for a number of events that began many years ago with the commissioning of his first command at sea; USS Raven.



Alan and Sam

It wasn't a long visit, but we had a fine time during our few days together; a drive to the historic village of Stockbridge and the Norman Rockwell Museum where the semiquincentennial of the republic was on full display. And there was time both in and on Ashmere Lake; swimming (for the



Sam, Mercer and Lari

more-hardy souls) and boating.

It wasn't a long visit, but packed with good fellowship, good food (Sam's a gourmet chef, too, and was dragooned by Lois into preparing Eggs Benedict one morning. He even brought the "fixins" just in case) and just

getting happily reacquainted. Then they were off, back to tidewater Virginia and, a day later, enroute to Japan where LT Mercer Dickson Howard was waiting. ⚓



Sam, Lois, Lari and Alan

Just for Fun



Coming Up

10/12	Columbus Day
10/13	U.S. Navy Birthday **
11/1	Begin Standard Time – Timekeepers back one hour
11/3	Election Day **
11/10	U.S. Marine Corps Birthday **
11/11	Veterans Day **
11/26	Thanksgiving Day
12/2	Baltimore Council Annual Meeting & Banquet
12/4	Hanukkah begins at Sundown
12/7	Pearl Harbor Day **
12/21	Winter Solstice – First Day of Winter
12/25	Christmas Day
12/26	Kwanzaa Begins
12/31	New Year's Eve

** Show the Colors



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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

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: baltimorenavyleague.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.